

At least nine dead in 5-minute tremor

Eastern Europe rocked by massive quake

By PEARCE WRIGHT, SCIENCE EDITOR, AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

ONE of the most powerful earthquakes to be recorded shook central Europe from the Baltic to the Black Sea yesterday, yet initial reports put the death toll at only nine in spite of widespread destruction across thousands of miles.

Eight were killed and 260 injured in and near Bucharest, and a woman died of shock on the Danube river dividing Romania and Bulgaria. Serious damage was reported in the Soviet republic of Moldavia, where Tass said there were more dead and wounded but gave no details.

The quake, bigger than that which killed 67 people in San Francisco last year, was in the Carpathian mountains that run through eastern Romania and its Moldavian border and lasted more than five minutes, according to recordings at the seismic network operated by the British Geological Survey at Edinburgh. It measured 7.3 on the open-ended Richter scale.

The tremor was felt throughout Romania, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Turkey, Greece and Soviet Armenia — where more than 20,000 died in a 1988 quake that measured 6.9 on the Richter scale. Another tremor, measuring 5.9 on the scale, killed 33 people in Peru on Tuesday.

Bucharest radio and television reports said the Romanian toll was expected to rise. Many of the casualties were among people who leap in panic from the windows of high-rise flats. Some were fled from

INSIDE

Summons against more than 2.6 million people in contributions are expected to be issued for poll tax non-payment, clogging magistrates' courts in England and Wales. There are fears of an unprecedented number of court actions as the level of defaulters "settles down" to 20 per cent in metropolitan areas, where non-payment is running at about 33 per cent at the moment. Page 3

Divorce delay

Proposals to overhaul the divorce laws have been put back for months, jeopardising any chance of legislation in the next session of parliament. The Law Commission is not now expected to report until September or October. Page 3

End of the Wall

Berlin will again be a whole city by the beginning of July when the Wall truncating hundreds of streets is to be demolished to make way for new roads. Page 9

UN camp attack

A security guard was killed when soldiers attacked a United Nations compound five miles from the centre of Monrovia in Liberia. Page 9

Jobs loss

The switch by London's International Stock Exchange to a paperless shares system could cost between 2,000 and 3,000 jobs among stockbrokers' backroom staff. Page 21

England call

Graham Taylor, who guided Aston Villa to second place in the first division last season, will be interviewed within the next eight days by the Football Association about becoming manager of England. Page 40

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LIS



Buried by the earthquake: Rescuers carrying away a man who was pulled from the rubble of a wrecked building in Bucharest

France bans British beef

By MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT
AND SUSAN MACDONALD
IN PARIS

FRANCE last night accused

of undermining European Community law by announcing a ban from today on imports of British beef and cattle because of concern that the "mad cow" disease could harm French consumers.

Massive earthquakes can happen in seemingly stable, old geological formations well away from the boundaries of tectonic plates such as the San Andreas fault, in California.

Mrs Richards suggests the latest earthquake might have occurred in an old tectonic region, but a site where long ago one of the plates rode over the other. The obvious result was the mountain building of the region. Hidden deep below is the rock structure from the plate that was pushed underneath, including strata that may have been forced into irregular deformed shapes. Those provide the latent faults for an earthquake when they collapse from the pressures constantly at work in the Earth's crust.

The French action is unwarranted, unjustified and contrary to European Community law", Mr John Gummer, the Minister of Agriculture, said. "It undermines the whole basis of trading between partners, which must be based on mutual recognition of Community institutions and expert scientific advice."

Mr Gummer said that he had written to the European Commissioner for Agriculture, Mr Raymond MacSharry, asking for an immediate ruling that the French action was illegal. "France must understand that such action undermines the ability of other countries to uphold EC law."

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Our scientists say that British beef is safe. The chief medical officer has said that British beef is safe to eat. The

Continued on page 20, col 7

SHARE prices and the pound rose strongly yesterday on renewed speculation that Britain would soon link its currency to the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System.

The FT-SE 100 index closed up 50.6 points at 2,346.2 and gilt-edged stocks were £1.70 higher after rising £1 earlier.

Sterling rose above \$1.70 for the first time since the start of April but closed little changed at \$1.6940. Against the mark it was up 1 pfennig at DM2.8442 leaving the Bank of England's effective rate index up 0.5 at 89.4.

The Chancellor, Mr John Major, who was in Paris for a meeting of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, said the conditions the Government had set for Britain's entry to the ERM remained the same. But he repeated that Britain's underlying inflation rate was

falling to below 5 per cent by the end of next year.

The institute also predicts a fall in the balance of payments deficit from £15 billion this year to £9 billion in 1991.

Leading Article, page 11

Markets surge, page 21

Stock Market, page 26

Close to the European average than the retail price index suggested.

Mr Major said he did not think the pound had reached "unsustainable" levels. It was still 2 per cent below the level at which interest rates were last raised. He gave a warning that, if necessary, he would not hesitate to raise interest rates.

New economic forecasts from the National Institute for Economic and Social Research suggest that if Britain joins the ERM, allowing interest rates to fall, the published rate of inflation could fall to below 5 per cent by the end of next year.

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Paisley bars Dublin role in Brooke initiative

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

Mr IAN Paisley yesterday became the first of Northern Ireland's political leaders to break an agreed silence on the possibility of talks in the province when he issued a warning that Dublin could have no say in negotiations on the future government of Ulster.

"No one should be in any doubt about the basis of our fundamental objection to the Anglo-Irish Agreement, namely the position afforded to Dublin in the internal affairs of Northern Ireland," Mr Paisley said. "The Unionist position is crystal clear — Dublin can have no say in our internal affairs."

Mr Paisley went on to indicate, not without ambiguity, that he was prepared to consider discussions with Dublin — in a United Kingdom context — only when an interim settlement in Northern Ireland had been reached. He added that any final resolution would have to be put to a referendum in Ulster before implementation.

The statement, issued in Belfast, was being seen as a warning to Mr Peter Brooke, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, and his Irish counterpart, Mr Gerard Colman, the Foreign Minister, whom he met in Dublin on

Segregation of prisoners rejected

THE Government was standing firm yesterday against pressure for segregation of republican and "loyalist" prisoners in Crumlin Road jail, Belfast. The refusal came in the face of a campaign of violence in the prison and terrorist death threats against prison staff outside.

Mr John Cope, the Northern Ireland security minister, said that the campaign was about who dominated the prison — the authorities or the paramilitaries. Prison staff, under threat from both the IRA and Ulster Freedom Fighters, would be the losers if the Government gave in.

"It is much easier to intimidate somebody if there is a whole landing or section full of prisoners of one paramilitary group," he added.



Police heading for Italy will take with them details of suspected hooligans, whose faces will appear on computer screens as a model's does here

By JOHN GOODBODY
SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

PEOPLE are being asked to use a telephone hotline to give information about potential football hooligans travelling to the World Cup, which begins in Italy next week.

The National Football Intelligence Unit, which was set up last October to co-ordinate efforts against troublemakers at home and abroad, will use messages left on the hotline answering machine to warn the Continental police about supporters' activities.

Supt Adrian Appleby is particularly concerned about England's match in Sardinia against the Netherlands on June 16, because the Dutch supporters have a reputation for violence equal to that of the English.

and let us know about anything they suspect, however insignificant it may seem." Calls can be anonymous. The hotline will be kept open after the World Cup to obtain further information about hooligans for domestic and foreign fixtures.

Supt Appleby is particularly concerned about England's match in Sardinia against the Netherlands on June 16, because the Dutch supporters have a reputation for violence equal to that of the English.

He said: "There is a lot of good intelligence in this country of plans that are being made that will involve the Dutch."

A team of about 12 officers, led by Mr Malcolm George, assistant chief constable of Greater Manchester, will be in Cagliari to help their Italian colleagues. They will take with them computer discs containing photographs and biographical details of more than 1,000 English hooligans.

Only a handful of support-

JOHN CHAPMAN

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England supporters will travel to the World Cup. Supt Appleby said many package deals including match tickets had not been taken up because of the high price. Everyone applying for such a deal is screened against a list of known troublemakers.

Many individuals will travel independently to Cagliari hoping to find accommodation and buy tickets on the black market. Supt Appleby said: "The vast majority of people travelling independently are decent people, who just cannot afford the price of a package, but obviously the people in whom we are interested will be travelling in this way as well."

Three accused over £77m bonds theft

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THREE men are to appear before City of London magistrates today accused of handling stolen certificates of deposit and Treasury bills with a face value of £77.3 million. The 80 bonds were part of a batch worth £292 million stolen at knifepoint from a messenger earlier this month.

The three men, all with addresses in the Irish Republic, were held by Customs officers at Heathrow airport after their baggage was searched on Tuesday when they arrived on a British Airways flight from Dublin. They were then questioned by

Work on Tory manifesto unlikely before new year

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

DETAILED preparatory work on the next Tory manifesto is unlikely to begin before early next year, according to senior Conservative sources.

That would leave time for a snap election next June, but would do so neatly with an autumn poll, said to be the preferred option of Mr Kenneth Baker, Conservative party chairman.

Mr Baker is understood to believe that next year's projected economic upturn would need time to filter through to the voters, and that a summer poll would be premature. Nor is it certain that the Conservatives will go into the next election with as radical a programme as in 1987, in spite of a warning yesterday from Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister for Overseas Development, against a "standstill" manifesto.

Although the Prime Minister's instincts are for renewed radicalism, she is also aware that this time the Government has much to do in persuading people that the upheavals of the last three years in areas such as health, education and the community charge are beginning to pay off.

It is being pointed out that the Government's credibility will hardly be enhanced by piling controversial new policies on top of those about which the electorate is still deeply sceptical. Implementation of the Education Reform Act 1988 is at an early stage, and student loans and the National Health Service re-

forms are still unknown quantities.

Nor, after more than a decade in power, is there much virgin territory for the Conservatives to explore. As one insider said yesterday, there is hardly a single policy area that has not already been the subject of a White Paper, a major piece of legislation or a fundamental review.

Renewed efforts to sell the Government's record can be expected throughout the summer and at the party conference in the autumn, in addition to the counter-attack on Labour's revised policy review. At the same time, Mr Baker will be driving to damp down speculation about the timing of the next election and the contents of the next manifesto, for fear it will distract attention from these activities.

"We don't want it to go from mid-term blues to election fever overnight," one adviser said.

According to insiders, both Mr Baker and Mr Kenneth Baker, the head of the 10 Downing Street policy unit, are "sitting on their hands" as far as the manifesto is concerned. They want to see the Tories making a steady recovery in the opinion polls during the summer, with the Bournemouth conference giving added momentum by sketching out the "vision" for the 1990s.

Nevertheless, the manifesto will prove a battleground for the competing factions within



Mr Chris Patten: White Paper in autumn

Computer scientist reverses job trend

By PEARCE WRIGHT
SCIENCE EDITOR

A LEADING researcher in advanced computer technology has been lured back from America to become the head of the computing centre at Edinburgh University in a reversal of the "brain drain" of scientists from Britain.

Professor Jeff Collins is returning from the University of Texas in Arlington, to direct a £3 million package of research into advancing ideas for systems called parallel computers needed for the next generation of intelligent supercomputers. The university has negotiated Government and industry support for the venture. Professor Collins will work part-time on education and training for high technology firms.

Professor Collins, the former professor of electrical engineering at Edinburgh University, played an important role in academic backing for the Silicon Glen strategy to attract hi-tech industries to Scotland.

Advances in parallel computer technology are crucial to the design of machines that can recognize and generate images, and which have applications of immense potential importance for film and television development, improving diagnosis in medicine by early recognition of tumours and other conditions and for research and modeling global weather patterns.

Check on bones

Experts at the London Hospital are expected to know today if police searching an east London site for the bodies of missing boys have discovered human bones. Bone fragments, including what might be part of an arm, were found under the car park of a synagogue at Clapton Common.

Flight times

An improvement in airline punctuality has raised hopes that air traffic control in Europe may have overcome its difficulties. Flights suffering delays in Europe fell from 19.8 per cent in the first three months of 1989 to 15.8 per cent this year, the first reduction since 1987.

Freight talks

Railfreight Distribution, Britain's wagon-freight sector, yesterday began urgent discussions with customers over how to reorganize freight services to reduce "heavy freighting losses" which had

On to exceed £30 million in this financial year on a turnover of £45 million.

Fire attacks

Police in South Yorkshire and Wales are seeking men who attacked teenagers by trying to set fire to them in two separate incidents yesterday. Mr Richard Townsend, aged 19, was attacked in Barnsley, and two boys aged 12 and 14 were attacked by a man with a flamethrower in Newport.

£80,000 charge

Mr Henderson Clarke, aged 56, of Peterborough, a schools inspector, was dismissed yesterday after he was charged with theft of £81,884 from the Cambridgeshire County Council. He was granted £20,000 bail by magistrates and ordered to reappear next month.

Driver's delay

Mr Paul Ashwell, aged 26, of Northampton, the driver arrested in Greece six weeks ago on charges of illegally transporting part of an alleged Iraqi "supergun", is still awaiting a decision on his freedom after three judges yesterday delayed a decision on the prosecutor's call to drop the charges.

New TV chief

Mr David Aukin, aged 48, executive director of the Royal National Theatre, is to succeed Mr David Rose as head of Channel 4 drama, the television company announced last night. Mr Aukin's National productions include *Making History* and *Car on a Hot Tin Roof*.

Parking trouble

Volkswagen showed off its *Futura* "thinking" car which can park itself yesterday, although the vehicle needed some coaxing from engineers before performing correctly. The company hopes to adapt aspects of its complex system of parking sensors for production-line cars by 2000.

CORRECTION

The dancer accompanying Sylvie Guillem in the photograph printed on the Arts page yesterday was Jeremy Sheffield, not Patrick Shepherd.

BELOW: The Times overseas
Australia: \$1.75; Canada: \$2.75; Germany: Dm 1.20;
Finland: Mk 1.20; France: F 10.00;
N. Germany DM 3.80; Gibraltar: Gob;
Ireland: £1.20; Italy: L 1.20; Japan: Yen 100;
Norway: Kr 65; Sweden: Kr 220; Malta:
L 1.00; Pakistan: Rs 18; Portugal: Esc 1.20;
Spain: Esc 1.20; Switzerland: Fr 1.20;
USA: \$1.20; UK: £1.20; Turkey: L 1.20.

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computer scientist reverses ob trend

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TECHNOLOGY

has been lured back to

the computing centre

at Edinburgh University

after the "brain drain"

scientists from Britain

returning from the Univer-

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with a £5 million pack-

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The Uni-

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to work part-time on

design and training for

computing firms.

Professor Collins, the

new professor of elec-

tronics engineering at Edin-

burgh, played an

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Valley" in Scotland.

Advances in parallel

computing are crucial

to the development of imme-

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Dioceses start consultations on ordination of women priests



Bishop Coleman: "Time for reassessment"

By CLIFFORD LONGLEY
RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS EDITOR

ONE of the widest processes of consultation in the Church of England's recent history starts officially today with the formal reference to the 44 dioceses of the measure to permit women to be ordained as priests.

The consultation ends on November 30 next year, and the fate of the measure depends on a majority of diocesan synods accepting it. If they do, it will come to the General Synod for its final approval in 1992, requiring two-thirds majorities in each of the three synodal houses. Before

then, however, diocesan officers are being urged to ensure that the issues are discussed in the hundreds of deanery synods and thousands of parishes which form the base of the pyramid of synodal government in the Church of England. Only when those local discussions have been completed will the diocesan synods themselves meet to record a formal verdict, in the light of them.

The terms of the formal reference to the dioceses have been agreed by the standing committee of the General Synod. Each diocesan synod will have to address itself to a standard resolution, which states that "this synod

approves the proposals embodied in the draft Priests (Ordination of Women) Measure and in draft Canon 4b (Of Women Priests) and draft Amending Canon No 13". The two changes to canon law are to implement the legislation contained in the measure, for instance, by making it clear that priests can be of either sex.

The standing committee recommends that deanery synods should also have an opportunity to debate an identical motion, though diocesan synods are not necessarily bound to abide by deanery decisions. Parish discussion should also be encouraged, the committee says. To assist the debates, the

standing committee is also publishing today a summary of the arguments on both sides, in the form of a digest written by the Bishop of Credition, the Right Rev Peter Coleman, based on an earlier longer document from the House of Bishops. This is available to be ordered in bulk by dioceses and deaneries.

The bishop points out in his introduction that though the measure to permit women priests has received majorities in the General Synod, "previous patterns of voting need not constrain us. It is time for a fresh assessment, taking seriously the shape of the arguments and their cogency as they are

now perceived, and weighing carefully the safeguards proposed for those whose conscientious objection needs respect."

This digest is accompanied by the text of the measure itself and the related draft canons, and also by the text of the Ordination of Women (Financial Provisions) Measure, which enables payments to be made from church funds to clergy who resign because of their conscientious opposition to women priests. That measure, though arising from the main one, is not subject to diocesan approval though the dioceses are asked to take it into account. Similarly, they are asked to bear in mind a draft

code of practice. To be carried in each diocesan synod, the standard resolution will have to be approved both by the majority of the clergy and of the laity, voting separately. The suffragan and diocesan bishops of the diocese, who make up the diocesan House of Bishops, may also record their votes, but that will not affect the outcome. It is unlikely that any diocesan synod will have met to debate the standard resolution before the end of this year.

Reference of Draft Legislation: Digest by the Bishop of Credition (Church House Publishing, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3NZ; £1.50 each)

Doctors 'ignoring' infection dangers from used needles

By THOMSON PRENTICE, SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE British Medical Association yesterday accused doctors of deplorable complacency towards the risks of injury from needles, scalpels and other medical equipment that could be contaminated with potentially fatal infections.

Dr John Dawson, head of the association's professional division, said: "Doctors have become careless, because of the ready availability of antibiotics to treat some infections, but now need to take the risks more seriously."

Health service staff, particularly medical students, should not be exposed to the hazards of blood-borne infection by the viruses that cause Aids, hepatitis and many other diseases, Dr Dawson said.

In a report, published today, the association calls for better training in the safe use and disposal of sharp instruments.

The report lists 34 cases worldwide of doctors, nurses and other health care workers who are known or presumed to have been infected with HIV through accidental injuries while handling contaminated "sharps". They include a British nurse who jabbed herself with a needle in 1984, and a British surgeon, now dead, who was probably infected accidentally while working with Aids patients in Africa.

Although such cases are rare, the risks from other serious infections are much greater, the report says. Dr David Morgan, the report's editor, said: "There could easily be 1,000 cases a day in Britain of some doctor, nurse or health care worker suffering a sharp injury. Inexperience, lack of rest and work pressure seem to be factors."

The report, which contains guidelines to prevent the injuries, is being issued to all medical students. Dr Morgan said that it should become essential reading for all doctors. In a foreword, Sir Christopher Booth, chairman of the association's board of science and education, says: "Doctors frequently fail to report sharp injuries themselves and medical students quickly learn the message: do not make a fuss about the odd job. This complacency is deplorable."

In a separate report, published today, the Royal College of Physicians and the Royal College of Pathologists say that medical schools and universities should provide more training in infectious diseases. "Twenty years ago,

the problem of infection was thought to have been almost resolved by vaccines and antibiotics," the report says.

"However, we feel that it is important to start by providing suitable training for the increasing number of able young doctors who appreciate that the speciality of infectious diseases is important and exciting."

This would enhance the practice of the speciality both in hospital and community medicine.

A Code of Practice for the Safe Use and Disposal of Sharps (British Medical Association, PO Box 295, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9IP; £4.95). Training in Infectious Diseases (Royal College of Physicians, 11 St Andrews Place, London NW1 4LE; £5)

Health, page 14

Battle for Aids funds in Ireland

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of Irish people who are HIV positive have gone to London in search of adequate counselling, treatment and social service facilities, the Irish Family Planning Association said yesterday.

Mr Frank Vaughan, the association's education and resource officer in Dublin, put the numbers of HIV positive Irish people living in London at more than 1,000 — more than all those known to be carrying the virus throughout Ireland.

Research at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, west London, carried out two years ago, gave an insight into the probable scale of the problem today. Mr Vaughan said: "Researchers found then that 30 per cent of intravenous drug users being treated at the hospital were HIV positive and that 44 per cent of those came from Dublin."

Mr Vaughan is campaigning for increased Irish government funds for medical facilities for Aids and publicity programmes. "Politicians are blinding themselves to what is patently obvious," he said. Official statistics indicate that 948 people are known to be carrying HIV and that there have been 146 recorded cases of Aids of whom 63 have died.

Mr Martin Byrne, aged 23, who became HIV positive after treatment for haemophilia, says in the film: "I don't think the problem is ever going to get through to the Government because it is so pig-headed."

MPs seek action against farmers polluting rivers

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A TOUGHER line should be taken against farmers who pollute rivers and water supplies, an all-party committee of MPs recommends today. A report by the Committee of Public Accounts says that of 900 serious pollution incidents in 1988 in England and Wales, only 148 resulted in convictions. "We are disturbed that the 'polluter pays' principle is not being effectively applied," the MPs say.

"We note the ministry's concern over farmers' ability to pay for waste control measures and ministers' views that the courts are not playing their full part. We therefore urge the ministry to work closely with the National Rivers Authority to ensure that grant aid is complemented by their firm line on prosecutions."

The report charts an average 12 per cent annual increase in farm-related pollution over the 10 years to 1988 in England and Wales as changes in agricultural practice generated more liquid waste. "While some of the increase may have been due to increased reporting, the number of incidents seemed to be rising," the MPs say.

They welcome, however, the steps the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is now taking to monitor

£300m bill for coastal clean-up

By RONALD FAUX

RESTORATION of Britain's north-west coastline to a European standard of cleanliness would take five years and cost more than £300 million, local authorities around the Fylde coast, Lancashire, were told yesterday.

The meeting with officials of North West Water and the National Rivers Authority was held in the shadow of the European Commission's decision to prosecute Britain for the filthy condition of some beaches in the region. Mr Dennis Clegg, head of planning for North West Water, said firm proposals would be prepared by the end of the year.

He had steered his blue-and-white painted cobble John Boy from the harbour mouth at Salt and by the time he returned, seven hours later, his haul consisted of 20 lobsters and four stone crabs. It was only an average catch but normally they would have been on their way to local seafood stalls, hotels and restaurants by luncheon.

Instead, the catch yesterday

was being kept alive in special holding tanks for there was simply no market for the product of Mr Mainprize's work or those of 30 other small boats who earn their living harvesting a 20-mile stretch of the sea, three miles off Scarborough, for lobsters and crabs in an industry worth £1 million a year to the town.

It was a similar story yesterday all along the North-east coast where the multi-million pound industry has been devastated by the government warning to the people not to eat shellfish and crustaceans caught between the Humber and Montrose in Scotland.

Mr Mainprize, aged 50, is the chairman of the Scarborough Inshore Fishermen's Association. The 30 boats, with 60 men working them, normally land up to 400 lobsters and 100 stone of crabs a day. He and his colleagues are angry with the Govern-

Shellfish ban angers fishermen

By PETER DAVENPORT

IN THE Harbour Bar of the Golden Ball public house on the Scarborough seafront yesterday Mr John Mainprize was taking his lunch break in a depressed mood after a morning lifting lobster pots from the North Sea.

He had steered his blue-and-white painted cobble John Boy from the harbour mouth at Salt and by the time he returned, seven hours later, his haul consisted of 20 lobsters and four stone crabs. It was only an average catch but normally they would have been on their way to local seafood stalls, hotels and restaurants by luncheon.

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Mr Mainprize, aged 50, is the chairman of the Scarborough Inshore Fishermen's Association. The 30 boats, with 60 men working them, normally land up to 400 lobsters and 100 stone of crabs a day. He and his colleagues are angry with the Govern-

ment, accusing it of mis-handling the situation by issuing a blanket health warning against all shellfish based on insufficient evidence.

The result they said, was a catastrophic threat to their livelihood. Mr Mainprize, who has been fishing the seas of Scarborough since he was a boy, said: "The first thing we heard about this warning was on the local radio. I contacted the senior Ministry of Agriculture man here in his garden on Saturday morning and he knew nothing about it. The way this has been handled is disgraceful."

Mr Charles Simmons, the managing director of the Scarborough Fishermen's Selling Company, agents for disposing of the daily catch, said that since the warning, five days ago trade had virtually ground to a standstill. "The public

have been brainwashed. It has all been a ghastly mistake and something needs doing quickly. We are all awaiting the results of tests being made by the Ministry of Agriculture."

The health warning that has led to concern in the shellfish industry, which employs several hundred fishermen along the North-east coast, came after a routine sampling.

High levels of a toxin that can cause paralytic shellfish poisoning were found in some mussels. The highest level, 50 times greater than that at which action could be initiated, was found in a mussel sample taken from Trow Rocks, off south Tyneside.

The toxin comes from the algae dinoflagellates, which flourish in sunny conditions. It is known locally as a "red sea" and can attack the

central nervous system leading to paralysis and even death. The algae bloom is affecting the sea between Redcar and Berwick upon Tweed.

The Ministry of Agriculture said last night that there had been 40 outbreaks since 1814, the largest and most recent in 1968, when 78 people fell ill after eating locally caught mussels. Yesterday officials at the Department of Health in London met to consider whether a ban on swimming should be imposed off the North-east coast in the area of the algae bloom, but decided that there was no risk to swimmers and bathers.

A spokesman said, however, that the warning not to eat shellfish or crustaceans caught off the North-east coast was still in effect.

Marine scientists at the Ministry of Agriculture laboratories at Weymouth in Dorset were yesterday analysing samples of shellfish from the North-east ports for any traces of the toxin. Results are expected today.

Yesterday the beach and seafront at Scarborough was busy with families taking their children to the resort for school half-term holidays. The ranks of dressed crabs, lobsters and shellfish, however, remained undisturbed.

• Rofton Galvanising, a metal processing firm in Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, is facing prosecution by the National Rivers Authority after a tanker spilled 4,000 gallons of hydrochloric acid into the river Dibbin yesterday.

Leicestershire Co-operative Society was fined £9,000 yesterday for selling contaminated milk from a dairy in Knighton Fields, Leicestershire. The Co-op has taken immediate steps to improve work procedures but no longer owns the dairy.

New colours

The Queen, who is Colonel-in-Chief of the Welsh Guards, presented the regiment's new colours at a traditional military ceremony on the lawn of Buckingham Palace yesterday. The ranks of guardsmen included many who served in the Falklands conflict.

Racism denied

Lord Mountgarret, aged 53, of South Stainley, North Yorkshire, yesterday denied using lewd and offensive language at a cricket match between England and New Zealand at Headingley, West Yorkshire, last week, after a letter to the *Yorkshire Post* complaining of racist remarks.

Power sharing

South West Electricity meter readers will check 18,000 water meters for colleagues at Bristol Waterworks in a new cost-cutting partnership.

In the doghouse

Divorcees were blamed yesterday for 100 labradors having to be found new homes by the East Midlands Labrador Rescue Society. The society said the dogs are often too much for one person to look after because they need plenty of exercise.

School heads burdened by 'midnight management'

By DAVID TYLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

SCHOOLS are being run by "midnight management" as overworked heads struggle with new responsibilities for school budgets and cover for absent staff, a head teachers' leader said yesterday.

Mr Peter Baldwin, president of the National Association of Head Teachers, said: "If management in real terms is achieving results through and with others, how on earth can midnight management ever achieve what the Government proclaims it desires for the children of this nation?"

Mr Baldwin, head of St Gregory's Roman Catholic Primary School, Chorley, Lancashire, told the association's annual conference in Torquay, Devon, that the

Education 'faces new Dunkirk'

BRITAIN is facing an educational Dunkirk, the annual conference of the National Association of Head Teachers was told yesterday (David Tyler writes).

Mr Dennis Roberts, head of High Green School in Sheffield, said: "The Government 50 years ago relied on the self-sacrifice of ordinary people who pulled the coals out of the fire to bring the people back. We are now facing an educational Dunkirk for the same reason. We have too few tools to do the job."

The association is to launch local campaigns to persuade MPs and election candidates of the need for adequate resources to deliver the Government's educational reforms. Mrs Sonia Pollock, head of Oxford Garden Primary School, west London, told the conference: "We have to win governors on to our side and have every parent involved in our fight for adequate funding."

Mr David Rigby, of Oakwood Comprehensive School, Rotherham, south Yorkshire, said: "This government's motto appears to be, 'From those that have not shall be taken the little that they have'."

The conference passed overwhelmingly a motion to reject political dogma that seeks to deflect education from the path that leads to the service of personal needs on to the path that promotes the dominance of the needs of the economy.

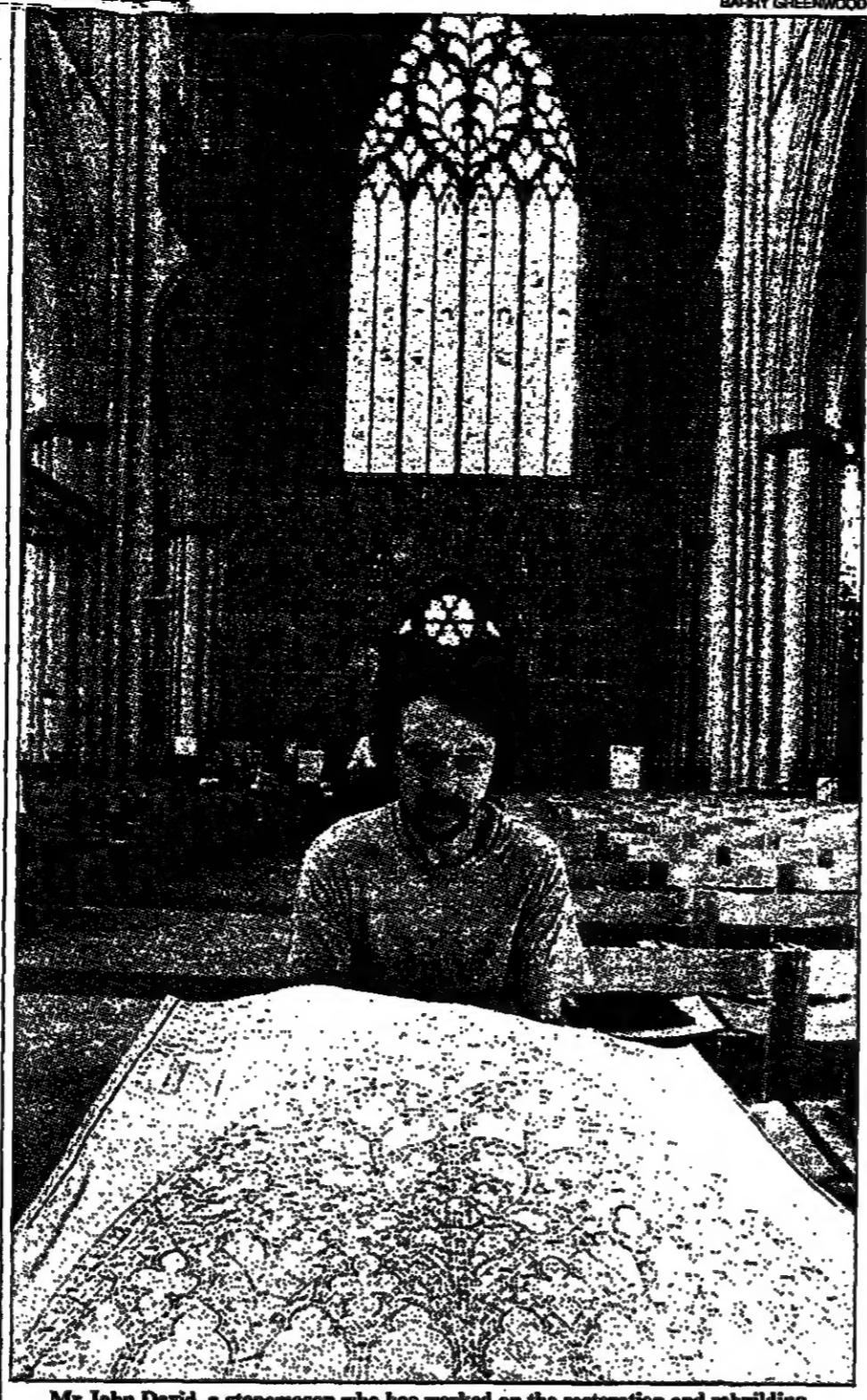
A separate pay body for heads and deputies with full negotiating rights without limits was called for by Mr Graham Locke, chairman of the association's salaries and pensions committee. Mr Keith Shackleton, a head from Stoke on Trent, said: "We should not be put in the position of going cap in hand to governors to ask for a rise."

Sculpture's £5m price challenged

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND, ART MARKET CORRESPONDENT

A DISPUTE over the identity of a marble sculpture attributed to the great Mannerist Giambologna, which was estimated by Christie's at £4,000 and was sold for £715,000, and which is now on sale for £5 million, looks set to enter another round, with the new valuation placed in doubt.

Dr Charles Avery, the Christie's sculpture expert who resigned after the sale and who had placed a small bid on the work, has written an attack on the new attribution in next month's issue of the art maga-



Mr John David, a stonemason who has worked on the restoration and rebuilding since 1984, with a drawing of the restored west window

Five designs chosen for Mersey pier

By SIMON TAIT
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

FIVE designs for the redevelopment of Liverpool pier head were disclosed yesterday after being chosen from submissions by about 30 architectural practices.

The site, one of the most famous waterfronts in the world, is dominated by the Royal Liver, Port of Liverpool and Cunard buildings (Ronald Faux writes).

Mr Philip Carter, chairman of Merseyside Development Corporation, said the pier head was historically where the great maritime city set its face to the river and the New World beyond. The site was recognized as the symbol of Liverpool and evoked strong feelings of pride. That is why we are sad to see the site it is in – windswept, drab, lifeless – in stark contrast to the majesty of the 'Three Sisters' buildings, Mr Carter said.

The schemes submitted by three London practices and two local ones range from the ultra modern to the neoclassical, making dramatic use of glass and steel set in bold and radical designs. The winning design will be announced on June 14. The museum will

Hunting museum goes to Quorn country

display such items as the hunting horn of Thomas Boothby of Peckleton who first hunted foxes in the early 18th century. His grandson-in-law, Hugo Meynell, created the sport as it is followed today by 205 hunts.

Five years ago, hunt members threatened to ride into the council chamber in full riding habit in protest against plans to ban hunting from county council property. The plans were narrowly defeated. The vote for the museum was won by a narrow margin, on the huncouncil.

Mr Peter Kane, a member of Leicestershire's planning and recreation committee, said yesterday: "The museum would lead to glorifying hunting, which is a part of our heritage we ought to eradicate altogether from our minds."

The museum is to take up 250 square metres of the existing Melton Carnegie Museum site and will open in 1992. The county will donate the land for the hunting museum, behind the existing museum, and every hunt in the country is being sent an appeal for funding by the new trustees, led by Lord Kimball of Easton. The museum will

Minster to spend £4m on restoring stonework

MORE than £4 million is to be spent to restore crumbling stone on the west front of York Minster.

Stone is being imported from northern France for the work which Lord Halifax, high steward of the minster fund, said should be completed in 10 years. Lord Halifax, who announced a plan to raise £400,000 a year yesterday, said he hoped most of the money would come from businesses, organizations and individuals in Yorkshire. "A lot of money has been made in Yorkshire in recent years," he said.

Mr Bob Littlewood, superintendent of works, said the French stone had special qualities and was of a size which made it particularly suitable for restoration purposes.

Lord Halifax also gave details of a visit to the minster by the Duke and Duchess of York on June 15. The royal couple will attend a service to mark the completion of restoration of the west window and meet craftsmen involved in the work. The Duke will climb one of the towers to get a closer look at the restoration and the stonework.

A new technique for stained glass has been used in the restoration of the window, which should give a better view of it than before. It involves placing clear glass over the stained glass, with a small space between. The technique strengthens the window and reduces refraction in the glass.

It was a method used with great success in the restoration of the Rose Window after the 1984 fire, which destroyed the roof of the minster's south transept.

Mr Paul Blamire, a researcher in Japanese studies at

Japan 'snubbed' as BBC ends radio service after 47 years

By ANDREW MC EWEN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

national Affairs, felt that if the BBC had to make economies, there were countries with greater needs than Japan. "It may well be considered something of a slight by the Japanese." However he had spent two years living in Japan and no one had mentioned listening to the service. Its audience is put at 120,000 and it broadcasts for only seven hours a week.

Closing it will save £279,000 a year, while a further £80,000 will be released by ending the Malay service, which broadcasts for one hour 45 minutes a week. The decision came after a year of discussions between the World Service and the Foreign Office, which funds it. Mr John Tusa, managing director of the World Service, said it was an agreed package, but he would not say whether he was happy with the overall situation. "Until I see what comes out of the (Chancellor's) autumn statement I would be foolish to characterize it," Mr Tusa said.

The decision will mean the loss of 12 jobs in the Japanese service, but eight are people on secondment from Japanese broadcasting organizations. Three jobs in the Malay service will go. Direct broadcasts to Latin America are to be cut by 12½ hours a week, bringing the total reduction to 21 hours. That will be almost offset by increases of 19½ hours in other services. Overall, the World Service's output will fall slightly by next April to 784 hours a week, against nearly 786 hours now.

Even so, Mr Clayton said, the worst threat to fox-hunting is from the erosion of the environment in which it takes place. We need to preserve as much of it as we can."

The museum will portray how the countryside has been moulded by fox-hunting over the years and how modern development is endangering the sport.

The museum will also have a display giving the objections of such anti-hunt activists as the League Against Cruel Sports. Mr Terry Howatt, a museum trustee and a former Labour county councillor, said: "If there was a vote for the cessation of hunting on the table I would vote for it tomorrow. But that doesn't mean we don't have to have a museum about it and the

impact of hunting on our lives." Leicestershire has some of Britain's most famous hunts, some demanding £2,000 a year for membership. The county is blessed with open country and sprung turf.

Another trustee, Mr Michael Clayton, editor of *Horse and Hound*, said: "The hunting museum is not a propaganda exercise. It will be historical and educational."

Nevertheless, there is still violent opposition to fox-hunting in the county, which bears a fox as its emblem. In Ashby-de-la-Zouche last week, anti-hunt saboteurs warned a game butcher that his meat would be poisoned.

Motion, which is surrounded by the Quorn, Belvoir, Cottesmore, Pytchley and Fenns hunts, once boasted 10 hunting lodges. Edward VII and Edward VIII had lodges there, and the Prince of Wales rides with the Quorn on most weekends in the season.

R S Surtees had Jorrocks saying in *Handley Cross*: "It's the sport of kings in the image

of war without its guilt and only five and twenty per cent of its danger."

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Miss Corri: Claimed oil is early Gainsborough

settlement. Mr Stephen Robinson, the theatre's chief executive, said: "We are relieved that the affair is over. It has taken its toll of our resources in time and money, and this settlement is certainly more satisfactory than pursuing a protracted legal case which would have cost more and more."

Mr Michael Diamond, the director of Birmingham City Council's museums and art

galleries, said there was no living art expert who believed the painting was by Gainsborough. "We think that there is an element of imagination involved."

The theatre tried to sell the painting in 1985 and it failed to reach the reserve price of £50,000. That is the only solid test of its actual value.

Mr Diamond said the portrait was thought to have been painted when Gainsborough would have been a teenager. "It simply does not look like anything he did at that time. The consensus among art experts appears to be that it is a competent mid-18th century portrait, but not distinctive enough to be attributed to any one artist."

He added that, even if it was

by Gainsborough, he could not accept Miss Corri's claim that it could be worth £1.5 million. "No Gainsborough has ever reached anything like that." Miss Corri's theatrical agent in London said that she was "away for a few days" and could not be contacted for comment.

Miss Corri launched legal proceedings against the theatre, claiming £60,000 for time spent researching and restoring the painting. The dispute ended yesterday when the theatre announced it would give the painting to Miss Corri in an out-of-court

Alienated youth of Shanghai marks a massacre in silence

From OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN SHANGHAI

THE trombones of Shanghai's best jazz band are getting into the evening swing at the old Cathay Hotel, a relic of opulent times where Noel Coward once lingered, when the activity starts across the road on the Bund.

Young men and women, wearing the jeans and T-shirts universal to the disaffected youth of the communist world, gather on the celebrated promenade along the Huangpu river. At the spot where once stood the statue of Sir Harry Parkes, Minister Plenipotentiary, a song by New Kids on the Block, the latest American teen band, crackles from a radio cassette player. Money changes hands for tapes and electronic gadgets from Hong Kong. The mood is sullen, matched by the drizzle and the grey facades of the old banks and clubs of the International Settlement, remnants of the one-time "city of joy, gin and jazz". A similar crowd of "marginals" used to hang around Gorky Park in Mos-

cow in the days of the late Brezhnev, Andropov and then Chernenko.

"There's no future here," says Ken, aged 19, a student. He drops his voice, as six policemen, all with AK-47 rifles slung across their chests, march past. "They're out to stop any trouble this week, but there won't be," says a companion, who says he has nothing to do with the petty dealing going on around.

"People are not stupid. They are waiting, they've gone back to living and getting on with studies, so that they can go abroad. You don't want to mess up your life for nothing."

Nervousness on the eve of the June 4 anniversary has prompted the police to go in for a little "spring cleaning", as they put it - enforcing public order and encouraging earlier closing in the cafés and nightspots that have never been eradicated as a Shanghai speciality since the days when the British Club boasted the world's longest bar (the club's vast marble hall on the Bund is now partially occupied by a Kentucky Fried Chicken establishment). From the disaffected youths to the businessmen who have lost out on foreign investment, the mood in Shanghai, China's biggest port and the commercial heart of the country, is one of weary resignation as the country lives silently through the anniversary of the Peking massacre.

Though the home of the communist movement and the Red Guards of the cultural revolution, Shanghai is at heart a merchant town. Last June, it suffered less physical trauma than Peking with its Tiananmen massacre. The worst violence was the storming of a runaway train, an incident which officially killed

one on the drab campus of Fudan University, the talk is much the same, though highly guarded. Arrests, indoctrination, the danger of denunciation and enforced military service have cowed all but the most rebellious. But it has not stopped defiance. In April, on the anniversary of the death of Hu Yaobang, the deposed party leader, students banged for half an hour on metal rice bowls, a daring protest by current standards. It is rumoured that fire-crackers are being collected for the night of June 3.

Malaysia hangings 'barbaric'

The Labour Party yesterday called for a review of British aid and trading with Malaysia after the execution of eight Hong Kong citizens for drug offences (Richard Ford writes).

Mr George Foulkes, a Labour foreign affairs spokesman, criticized the pre-dawn hangings - carried out despite a plea for clemency from Mrs Thatcher - as "barbaric", and demanded concerted European action against Malaysia.

Mr Andrew Mackay, the Conservative MP for Newbury, said it was a "damn cheek" for Labour to question a Commonwealth friend which had one of the best records in the world for fighting the drugs problem.

Greece agrees US bases deal

Athens - Greece and the United States concluded a new defence co-operation agreement yesterday, ensuring the continued presence of American military bases on Greek soil for a further eight years (Chris Eliou writes).

The accord was finalised after nearly two years of arduous negotiations and a one-year suspension because of three successive Greek general elections. Its contents, to be signed in four to six weeks' time, will be made public in a fortnight and will remain "classified" until further processing in the US.

Retired British officer killed

Harare - Heavily armed soldiers shot dead an elderly retired British Army officer after he apparently drove through a barrier sealing off the road outside President Mugabe's official residence from dusk to dawn (Jan Raath writes).

Friends of Bryan Lomax Angel, aged 57, a former Royal Artillery captain, said his car was raked with automatic fire on Sunday night after he "seemed to have missed his turning" and smashed through the barrier, installed in 1982 after an assassination attempt on Mr Mugabe, and patrolled by guards with rocket launchers and automatic weapons.

Lobbyists behind the scenes give soaps a conscience

From JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

IN ONE episode in this season of *Dallas*, the character April Stevens down a drink with her sister and then declares: "I don't think we should drive. I'll call a cab."

It sounds like a throw-away line, but it is actually the result of the moral transformation of prime time television in America. All of a sudden soap-operas are developing a social conscience, a change brought about by a small number of pressure groups set up to persuade television producers and script-writers to incorporate their well-meaning messages into America's favourite television shows.

"The response of the creative community has been overwhelmingly positive," said Dr Jay Winsten, director of the Harvard Alcohol Project, which lobbied for April Stevens's line in *Dallas*. Dr Winsten has met more than 160 screen-writers and producers in the past two years, and says that references to the dangers of drunk driving have been incorporated in

Israelis thwart Arab beach raid

From ASSOCIATED PRESS IN NIZZANIM, ISRAEL

PALESTINIAN guerrillas in small speedboats launched a two-pronged attack on Israeli beaches crowded with holidaymakers yesterday. Israeli soldiers killed four and captured several Palestinians.

No Israelis were reported killed or injured, but thousands were forced off the beaches on *Shavuot*, the Festival of Weeks holiday, which marks the giving of the Ten Commandments. Police ordered thousands of other residents near the beach to stay at home. Soldiers and armed farmers manned roadblocks from the southern edge of Tel Aviv down the coast to Ashkelon. An army spokesman said the attackers were Palestinians but did not identify the faction to which they belonged.

The Israeli armed forces radio said the assailants' main ship came from Libya and the guerrillas planned to kill civilians in Tel Aviv. "It was well planned, but as far as we know it only succeeded," an army spokesman said.

The mother ship in the Mediterranean launched several smaller speedboats with guerrillas, according to the armed forces radio. One group landed about 10am on an empty stretch of beach at Nizzanim, 18 miles south of Tel Aviv.

A second boat was captured as it headed for central Israel shortly before that, army officials said, adding that the aim was "to carry out murders

styrofoam containers, and went to jail for dumping sludge from a polluted beach into the toilets of an oil company's headquarters. "If they are going to treat our world like a toilet," he said, "then I am going to treat their toilets like they treat our world."

Sometimes, as in the ABC series *Growing Pains*, in which a character was killed in a drink-driving incident, the producers will devote a whole episode to the perils of driving while intoxicated.

But drink driving is not the only moral issue to have its own lobby group. An Environmental Media Association was set up a year ago with the backing of some of the biggest names in Hollywood, including Robert Redford, the ardent "green". Its successes include the conversion of Joey Harris, one of the title characters in the NBC comedy series *My Two Dads*, into a dedicated environmentalist who threw out all the aerosol spray cans in the house.

Joey also lectured his daughter about using poly-



Show of strength: Soldiers marching across a rain-soaked Tiananmen Square in Peking yesterday as the massacre anniversary approaches

Dissent in the local universities has also led to satire such as the over-reverent parroting of the official version about rebellious hooligans, and the festooning of dormitory walls with portraits of Mao. "They can't punish us for too much fervour," says one student, "even though they know it's intended as mockery."

With the revision to orthodoxy over the past year, a group of older, neo-conservative scholars has risen to prominence. According to one of them, Mr Xiao Gouguin, a history professor at Shanghai Normal University, the students were misguided. "They had a beautiful, adolescent dream. They thought the

Western system was like a jacket that any one could wear."

Though the Shanghai protests led to few deaths, in many ways the shock was as far-reaching as in the more idealistic Peking, because this was the city which had most firmly seized the promise of economic reform and yearned to fight for its old role as the trading nexus of the Asia-Pacific area. Even before the protests, the optimism was turning sour under the impact of an austerity programme that was affecting living standards.

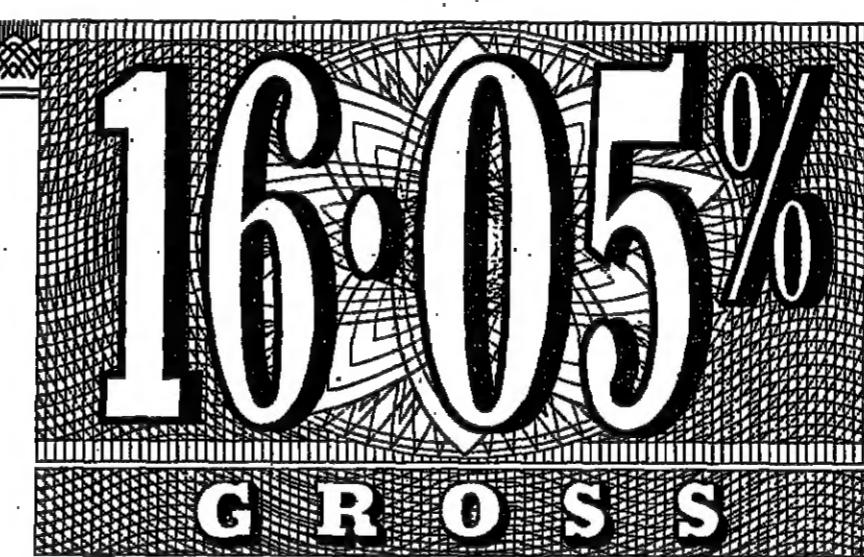
"There is a sense of Shanghai having lost out very badly, because so much of its future was based on enormous amounts of foreign investment," said a local diplomat. Nothing speaks more for the lost hopes than the dozen or so modern towers, surrounded by bamboo scaffolding and unfinished, which have risen above the lanes and streets of the old city. They are unlikely to find many foreign tenants.

The foreign money has not dried up, but it slowed by about 40 per cent, triggered most of all by the Americans. Only the Taiwanese are eager to place their money in the once sought-after joint ventures. Even the Japanese, according to local business-

men, are sensing the potential instability and American retaliation, and holding back their yen. Pudong is an ambitious scheme just launched by Peking to conjure an industrial port city out of the Yangtze swamplands in east Shanghai. Billions of foreign dollars will be needed. Foreign businessmen here see Pudong as something of a dramatic gesture by Peking, to signal their commitment to the open door, despite the political clampdown. Much will hinge on whether the World Bank decides to relax its restrictions and advance a big loan.

Locally, the Shanghai cadres have been making no secret of their concern for their country's pariah status. Herr Heinz Schwander, the Swiss manager of the new Hilton hotel, the city's top spot for foreign businessmen, says officials ask his advice on how to lure back visitors. "We're in a stagnation period now," says Herr Schwander, whose hotel occupancy rate has dropped from almost 90 per cent to around 60 per cent."

The local government believes that if China can weather the anniversary and the Asian Games in September with no further outbreaks of unrest, then Western business and tourism will return as before, says Herr Schwander.



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Communists in rearguard action to curb Yeltsin

From RICHARD OWEN, MOSCOW

WITH the Soviet Parliament taking the first steps towards a multi-party system, Communist deputies in the Russian Federation parliament yesterday began a rearguard action to retain their hold on power by limiting the freedom of action of Mr Boris Yeltsin, the federation president.

Mr Yeltsin's powers remain to be tested in the new situation, as does the relationship between his Russian government and the central authorities under President Gorbachov. Mr Gorbachov had first said in Canada that he was "worried" by Mr Yeltsin's victory. Mr Yeltsin, still formally a member of the Communist Party, has long since parted company with orthodox Soviet Communism, advocating radical reforms in a blunt and populist style.

But Mr Gorbachov said before leaving Canada for Washington that Mr Yeltsin had promised to preserve the Soviet Union and that the two men could work together, provided Mr Yeltsin did not "play games". Some of Mr Gorbachov's aides said Mr Yeltsin might even help Mr Gorbachov to force the pace of economic reform and to elaborate a new kind of Soviet Federation to replace the old style centralized Union.

Some of Mr Yeltsin's supporters are sceptical of this new task, seeing it as a ploy to suffocate the energetic and outspoken Mr Yeltsin by entangling him in bureaucracy. Yesterday Mr Yeltsin chaired a "co-ordinating committee" in St George's Hall in the Kremlin to form a coalition between his Democratic Russia bloc and the Communists, who are more or less evenly divided in strength in the parliament.

Communist deputies proposed that Mr Alexander Vaslov, the Russian Federation Prime Minister who was defeated by Mr Yeltsin on Tuesday, should become deputy President. But the bid failed and Mr Vaslov is likely to remain Prime Minister, on the grounds that this will

Leading article, page 11

Gorbachov to be given new ideas on Germany's Nato membership

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush will offer President Gorbachov fresh inducements during their three-day summit to agree to a united Germany joining Nato. A senior administration official disclosed in a pre-summit briefing that "we do indeed have some new ideas" for resolving what appears to be the central and most intractable issue on the agenda of the talks.

One of these ideas involved the "strengthening... in some fashion" of the 35-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, he said. Both France and Germany have pressed for an enhanced role for the conference in such fields as conflict resolution, but Washington would stop

Bonn puts accent on economy

From IAN MURRAY
IN BONN

WEST Germany believes that President Gorbachov is more worried about economic problems than about the future military status of a united Germany, and the West should therefore be concentrating more on helping him to reform the Soviet economy than on trying to reassure him about Nato's peaceful intentions.

The West German assessment is based on the fact that Soviet background papers, passed between officials handling the reunification negotiations, have so far ignored Nato and dealt almost exclusively with the economy. Herr Helmut Haussmann, the Bonn Economics Minister, told a meeting of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development in Paris yesterday that both the present superpower meeting and the July summit of the seven most industrialized democratic countries "must result in Western nations helping Gorbachov in his policy of reforming the economy". He was not suggesting simply providing cash or special funds. The scale of the Soviet problem was too great to solve merely with money.

THE ghost of Nancy Reagan is stalking Washington as troops of journalists prepare to track the meeting this week of the superpower first ladies of 1990.

The international media delighted in past years in detailing the "Style Wars" between Mrs Reagan and Mrs Gorbachov did not harm US-Soviet relations; this summit has more at stake. Not only has President Bush made personal diplomacy a hallmark of his presidency, but he and Mr Gorbachov face several days of sober analysis of East-West relations in contrast with the euphoria surrounding their last meeting in Malta shortly after the collapse of the Berlin Wall.

"Can America's 'Silver Fox' and the 'Bo Derek of the Steppes'



Defiant Armenian guerrillas preparing further resistance to the might of the Soviet armed forces in the Nubareshen district of Yerevan. Large crowds attended yesterday's funerals for the 22 nationalists killed there at the weekend, but the situation in Yerevan was reported to be calm

Political posturing to keep up appearances

From MARY DEJEVSKY IN OTTAWA

PRESIDENT Gorbachov said at a news conference here yesterday that Mr Boris Yeltsin had changed his position on a number of key issues before securing the presidency of the Russian Federation. In Moscow, meanwhile, Mr Yeltsin was repeating his election campaign promises of sovereignty for Russia at every level from village to parliament, and of the precedence of the republic's laws over those of the Soviet Union.

At this stage there is bound to be political posturing on both sides, since Mr Gorbachov and Mr Yeltsin have each to keep up appearances. At his news conference here, however, Mr Gorbachov did concede that he could be in for "difficult time".

How difficult Mr Yeltsin can make life for the Soviet leader depends on the powers he gains with his new post; how he chooses to use them - and how he is able to use them.

On Monday Mr Yeltsin was elected not, strictly speaking, to the presidency of the Russian Federation but to the chairmanship of the praesidium

of the Russian Federation's Supreme Soviet. This used to be little more than a ceremonial post because of the pre-eminence of federal institutions over those of the republic, and because any real residual power belonged to the Communist Party's organizations or to government institutions. The power structure of each republic was analogous to the structure of the central, federal leadership.

That changed in March, when Mr Gorbachov established the new post of Executive President of the Soviet Union and was elected to fill it. Some individual republics have since followed suit, changing their constitutions to give the post of republic president an equivalent measure of power at republic level.

The Russian Federation has not yet done so, but may this week approve the necessary constitutional changes. If it does, Mr Yeltsin would gain the sort of powers with which he would be able to block almost any legislation passed by the central Moscow leadership.

If Mr Gorbachov were to succeed in this, Mr Yeltsin would be left with a largely ceremonial post. Since, however, Mr Gorbachov could not prevent Mr Yeltsin's election, it is unlikely that he will be able to prevent the Russian Federation from changing its constitution to give Mr Yeltsin additional powers.

Assuming Mr Yeltsin obtains the powers of a new-style executive presidency, he has already said how he would use them: to make all

Russian Federation institutions "independent" of the centre. This is the description of sovereignty he used both during his election campaign and after his appointment on Tuesday.

Mr Gorbachov has described these policies as a recipe for anarchy, whereas Mr Yeltsin says they represent democracy from the grassroots upwards. Until local autonomy starts to take effect, it is impossible to predict whether it will amount to government by consent or will foster existing centrifugal tendencies. It is equally hard to predict how Mr Yeltsin will respond if his powers as republic president were to be effectively annulled.

Even if Mr Yeltsin obtains the constitutional changes necessary to function as executive president of the Russian Federation and his support for local autonomy and self-government can be made to work with and not against the interests of the republic as a whole, he will still face immense difficulties before he can wield real power *vis-à-vis* Moscow.

Russians delve into lost world

From RICHARD OWEN
IN MOSCOW

MR BORIS YELTSIN won his remarkable victory this week for a variety of reasons, including dissatisfaction with the Gorbachov leadership, deep anxiety over price rises - and his charisma.

But for many Russians yesterday there was one overriding factor: the prospect of a "sovereign" Russia and the freedom, after years of Communist ideology, to assert symbols of Russian nationhood.

Mr Yeltsin made skilful use

of his campaign of an overwhelming desire by Russians to express their nationhood and make contact with the "lost world" of pre-revolutionary Russian history. In part this is a response to militant self-assertion by other ethnic groups in the Soviet Union.

To some extent, some symbols of Russian nationalism have always been permitted, and Russia and the Soviet Union have sometimes seemed synonymous. During the Second World War, Stalin used the images of great Russian warriors from medieval legend to bolster morale, and in wartime speeches he dropped the phrase "comrades" in favour of "brothers and sisters". Stalin also co-opted the support of the Russian Orthodox Church.

The difference today - especially striking to anyone returning to Moscow after five years' absence - is that Russian symbols are no longer secondary to Communist symbols: they have all but replaced them. The hammer and sickle still flies above the Kremlin, and Lenin's tomb remains an obligatory stop for Soviet visitors to Moscow from the provinces. The party apparatus, although defeated by Mr Yeltsin's Democratic Russia bloc in the Russian parliament, still has its hold on power, not least at the soviet level.

But almost all the once-dominant Communist slogans have gone. One Communist MP speaking during the debate on Mr Yeltsin's nomination as President, said: "I have been a Communist since 1944, and I am not ashamed of it." The party apparatus, in other words, is on the defensive.

The Washington summit

Protocol nightmare looms for US staff

From PETER STOTHARD
IN WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON awaited President Gorbachov's arrival last night with mixed feelings of anxiety, triumph and even a little pity.

In the conventional forces field, the negotiators are reported to be close to full agreement on how to define what tanks and armoured vehicles should be included in the treaty, but again there has been no sign of an agreement on aircraft limitations. Both sides have played down the chances of any summit accord on conventional forces, and no treaty is expected before this autumn at the earliest.

The one accord that is now ready for signing tomorrow will commit the superpowers to reducing their stockpiles of chemical weapons to 5,000 tons a side by 2002 and to cease production of new weapons.

Administration officials are warning against big surprises and breakthroughs during the summit. "This is not a summit dedicated to the celebration of agreements that we can sign. If a summit is designed to do the hard work of trying to overcome the remaining obstacles that stand in the way of transforming East-West relations," one said. "We are now down to the bare-bone essentials and down to fundamental issues and these are not going to be settled easily."

Winning esteem, page 10



A huge Soviet flag being raised yesterday at the front of the Old Executive Office in Washington in preparation for the arrival of President Gorbachov later in the day

first state visit to the US by a Soviet leader. This morning President Gorbachov is due to receive a 21-gun salute on the White House lawn. If he were merely the General Secretary of the Communist Party, he would begin his first round of talks at 10.30am with the sound of only 19 guns echoing in his ears.

To those immediately involved in preparations for today's formal talks and celebrations, there is too much to worry about to look back to Milton or forward to the new Europe. The next five days seem set to be a protocol nightmare as the US organizers attempt to plan for a man who seems very reluctant to be planned. This is the

state occasion until Mr Gorbachov leaves Washington for what the White House sees as private trips to Minnesota and San Francisco.

Tonight there is to be a state banquet at the White House for more than a hundred guests.

This afternoon the Soviet leader will prepare for his early evening talks and for his 7pm dinner with the first four hours of what the Americans see as an inordinate amount of requested "private time".

Superpower spouses stalked by shadow of Nancy Reagan

From SUSAN ELICKOTT
IN WASHINGTON

THE ghost of Nancy Reagan is stalking Washington as troops of journalists prepare to track the meeting this week of the superpower first ladies of 1990.

While the public animosity between Mrs Reagan and Mrs Gorbachov did not harm US-Soviet relations, this summit has more at stake. Not only has President Bush made personal diplomacy a hallmark of his presidency, but he and Mr Gorbachov face several days of sober analysis of East-West relations in contrast with the euphoria surrounding their last meeting in Malta shortly after the collapse of the Berlin Wall.

Mr Bush must convince the

American public that he made the right decision in endorsing Mr Gorbachov. The Soviet leader must also look strong for a domestic audience increasingly disenchanted by the failure of economic reforms and anxious in the Baltic republics to break away from Soviet rule. Neither can easily afford the embarrassment of a tiff between their wives.

Asked last week if his personal ties with President Gorbachov had cooled in the wake of US opposition to the Kremlin's handling of Lithuania's moves towards independence, Mr Bush said: "I have to wait and see." The measured reply reflected uncertainty about Mr Gorbachov's standing amid a split within the Administration over whether the White House

should continue to embrace Mr Gorbachov so fervently or back off. The two first ladies have met on several occasions during the past three years, in December 1988 at a luncheon hosted in New York by the wife of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and at the last Washington summit in 1987. Mrs Bush's personal secretary described their relationship as "cordial". The US media even credited Mrs Bush with smoothing Mrs Gorbachov's feathers at the New York lunch after Mrs Reagan, the then first lady of America, butted in several times before Mrs Gorbachov had a chance to reply to questions. "We all want your secret," Mrs Bush whispered.

This visit by Mrs Gorbachov is expected to be low-key. Although

known for her independence, the Soviet first lady is likely to avoid any extravagances which could further damage her reputation at home, where she is often criticized for travelling abroad too much with her husband, influencing his opinions and enjoying the good life as Russians struggle against economic hardship.

Tass has assigned two full-time reporters to cover her moves as the Russians, weighed down by food shortages and political unrest, are readier than ever to criticize her. Americans, too, are likely to scrutinize Mrs Gorbachov more closely than the novelty of an elegant Soviet presidential wife has worn off. Mindful of their trailing popularity at home, the Gorbachovs declined an invitation

from the Bushes to visit his New England home on the coast of Maine, where he takes foreign visitors to relax. Instead, they will spend one night at the presidential mountain retreat, Camp David.

In contrast with her visit three years ago to Washington, Mrs Gorbachov has scheduled few high-profile events and only three trips away from her husband. These include opening an exhibition of rare Soviet manuscripts at the Library of Congress. Aside from official welcoming ceremonies and dinners, the first ladies will have a private tea party in the White House with a handful of wives of prominent administration officials, including those of Mr Dan Quayle and Mr James Baker, the Secretary of State.

Perpetrating a glitch in time

Bernard Richards rues the anachronisms increasingly found in script and novel

Retromania is a great English obsession, as we saw last week when a flotilla of "little ships" sailed once again for Dunkirk. Increasingly, though, we demand that re-creations of the past, especially on film, be accurate down to the last rivet. Bad marks were awarded to the director of *Chicago Joe and the Showgirl*, who has car headlights glaring away during the "dim-out" of 1944; similarly, *The Winds of War* had flashing Belisha beacons.

We are intolerant of such visual mistakes, but kick up less of a fuss over verbal anachronisms. A survey of recent films and historical novels shows them to be crammed with howlers. Yet to *cognoscenti*, such errors can damage the illusion as much as an inauthentic regional badge or car number.

Not even Booker Prize winners are immune. In Peter Carey's *Oscar and Lucinda* (1988) the events occur before 1866 but he has "not on your nelly", which Frankie Howerd believes he invented. We find "peveled" (first used in 1908), "sky pilot" (1895) and "cellophone" (1912). In 1859 the hero reflects that "perhaps he could open an account at Blackwell's." Perhaps not: the firm was founded 20 years later.

The cumulative effect of these little inaccuracies is to make one feel that a better *entrée* into the past would be an authentic Victorian novel or an autobiography of the period, such as Edmund Gosse's *Father and Son*. Even TV adaptations of period classics are unreliable. In a recent version of Dorothy L. Sayers' *Gaudy Night*, Harriet Vane spouted the California psychobabble "I don't believe what I'm hearing."

Many films set in the recent past have similar errors, even though living memory is available as a check. Nastassja Kinski in *Maria's Lovers* (set in the 1940s) uses the phrase "squeaky clean" — very much a '50s phrase. In David Hare's *Plenty*, the elder statesman Darwin refers, during the Suez crisis, to "cowboys", but this usage, for fly-by-night crooks, began 10 years later.

In his poem "The Screen", Gavin Ewart observes that recent anachronisms jar worse than older ones: "The further in time the more acceptable; but, latterly, / Where we know what they might have said, a bit silly."

Does it matter? After all, the greatest dramatist ever has clocks in *Julius Caesar* and churchyards in *Coriolanus* And in *The Duchess of Malfi*, set before 1512, Webster has a character refer to Galileo. If they could do it, why shouldn't we tolerate Robert Bolt's Henry VIII referring to a magnolia (named after a 17th-century botanist) or Henry II in Anouilh's *Becket* using the term "aesthetics" 600 years before it entered the language? Why shouldn't Mozart's friends in

...and moreover

CLEMENT FREUD

My guidebook writes of Naples that "famous travellers have been bewitched, assassinated, fooled, seduced and betrayed in an ephemeral play leading to nowhere". It goes on to predict that on departing this blend of crude reality and enticing fantasy, one takes away a deep melancholy. I encountered the melancholy long before there was an opportunity for bewitchment, seduction, etc. I could not get away from the airport.

Naples boasts just short of two million citizens. Most have a car, many have several cars, a lot of them were driving where I was driving, around the round-about about the airport from which the second exit leads to the motorway to Salerno. They drive with brio, foot on accelerator, hand on klaxon, eye on people walking along the pavement, to most of whom they seem to be related, or wish to become related. I was racing round in the fourth of five lanes when the battered mini Fiat on my inside signalled a right turn, which was fine by me; regrettably the Lancia on my outside indicated that it was turning left. It hit the Fiat. A dozen cars behind me hooted in empathy, so I did another circuit, glad I had ticked the box marked "Do You Wish to Avail Yourself of Comprehensive Insurance?"

Next time round, an articulated truck blocked the exit, and I was pleased about having agreed the "unlimited mileage" option also. Would I spend the entire weekend on the round-about? Would I make the *Guinness Book of Records*? On my fourth circuit I was getting into the swing of it 50 yards before my turning I sounded my horn, pushed my right hand through the sun-roof towards Mount Vesuvius and cut in front of a Transfusil of nuns. Honk went the Transit, negotiating a dead dog in the third lane. Honk went I, feeling like Toadie, and it was off to Castelabate and Positano.

Pompeii, Salerno and Eboli flashed by; I would have stopped but was dicing with this open Lamborghini driven by a fearless granny who had just learned to corner on two wheels. She stopped suddenly, in a

Amadeus say "We just stopped to see you Wolfe?" (Which wins the Order of the Clockwork Galleon for spectacular anachronism.)

The answer is obvious: Shakespeare and his contemporaries did not bother with such niceties because, to them, only the eternal applicability of history mattered.

Elizabeth I once said to William Lambarde, the Keeper of the Tower: "I am Richard II. Know ye not that?", meaning that the issues she faced were the same as those of her royal predecessor, although she was as far away from him as our Queen is from George III.

Our concept of history is different: we are concerned not with the universal features of particular periods, but with their particularity and irrepeatability. This notion of history was largely created by Sir Walter Scott, and there is no going back to the earlier view. Historians today are concerned with the pastness of the past.

But in popular historical recreations a curious situation has evolved. In material terms there is an ever-increasing drive for authenticity. This has reached awesome proportions, with *Little Dorrit*'s costume makers trying to get right not just the appearance of Victorian costumes, but their weight and feel. There seems to be no limit to the lengths to which directors will go to avoid receiving letters from buffa who have spotted incorrect firearms or anachronistic railway liveries.

The lack of such thoroughness in the spoken and written word stems from film directors and historical novelists being caught between two stools. They like the exotic appearance of olden times, but they are not interested in the past for its own sake, only in convenient and marketable versions of it. They want audiences to identify with their characters, to believe that human beings are essentially the same through the centuries, which means that however odd their actors and characters look, they have to sound familiar and plausible. Also, attempts to reproduce archaizing dialogue so often misfire that most directors are wary. All those "gadzooks" and "forsooths" are unconvincing, especially when Francis Drake goes to Hollywood.

The problem is more serious in naturalistic films than in the theatre. Linguistic absurdities are just about tolerable in the stage version of *A Man for All Seasons*, because we know we are being offered a version of history. But films suggest that we are seeing the thing itself, and such naturalism demands accuracy of language. Until more care is taken with the language, gross verbal anachronisms will continue to flourish, as prominent in the mouth as the vaccination mark on the thigh of the filmed harem bouri. Alas! The author is a Fellow of Brasenose College, Oxford.

Andrei Kortunov offers an independent Moscow view of the best response to German unity

Bring Russia closer into Europe

According to an opinion poll conducted in April in nine Soviet republics, about 60 per cent of the public favour German reunification, with 24 per cent against and 16 per cent undecided. However, on the question of a new security order in Europe, the Soviet public is much more conservative, 67 per cent preferring a neutral Germany.

Many radical Soviet intellectuals are highly critical of the idea of a neutral Germany. They see it as a relic of the Cold War, when the aim was to create a buffer between the two blocs. Now, they argue, a neutral Germany would increase instability in Europe by creating an independent power centre with nuclear political aspirations, an unpredictable military strategy and huge economic potential.

Some of the new thinkers would prefer to see the two parts of Germany moving closer but remaining within their existing military-political and economic alliances. This way, Germany would become a proving ground for constructive co-operation be-

tween the alliances, leading gradually to pan-European structures on security and co-operation. For the first time in history, Germany would serve to unite rather than to divide Europe.

But this option would be practical only if we could speak of the reunification of two equal states and the co-operation of two full-blooded alliances. That, however, is not the case, either militarily or economically. The forms and conditions of reunification are being dictated not by Berlin but by Bonn with its position of strength.

There is a third, more realistic option. This envisages a united Germany participating in Nato, but on special conditions which meet the security concerns of its neighbours. This would mean either East Germany becoming a demilitarized buffer zone in the centre of Europe, or Germany as a whole being a member of Nato's political institutions but with a special status in the alliance's military organization.

The practical choices might range from reducing its military participation to leaving the

military alliance completely, but some German participation in Nato's military structures would probably be preferable. In that case, Germany would not need its own general staff or nuclear or chemical weapons. Soviet troops would be gradually withdrawn from East German territory, and the US military presence would be reduced to a mere token. But even if all Soviet troops withdrew, Germans would probably like some Americans to remain.

At first glance this option looks like a clear Soviet defeat. No wonder Mr Gorbachov has shown little enthusiasm for such an outcome. But isn't this irrational fear of Nato symptomatic of the old way of thinking?

Nato will be highly vulnerable to centrifugal trends. It is likely to turn gradually into an amorphous "political club" of Western democracies, in which the declarations of "Atlantic solidarity" and common historical destiny will sound more and more like a ritual. Since Nato has never been very successful at resolving conflicts and contradictions between its own member-states (protracted

conflict between Greece and Turkey is a vivid example), it is highly probable that most practical issues will be decided by the European Community, emerging pan-European structures, the United Nations and other institutions which have nothing to do with the East-West confrontation of the Cold War period. The EC rather than Nato will become the key player in the new Europe.

I believe that the best Soviet option is to promote disintegration of the bloc system in Europe by accelerating the Vienna negotiations, withdrawing troops from Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland as soon as possible, and radically and unilaterally reducing the Soviet military presence in East Germany. (Only 11 per cent of the Soviet population think that the USSR should keep its forces in Germany after reunification; and 95 per cent of the Soviet military support a complete withdrawal from East Germany, so on this issue the army does not oppose Mr Gorbachov.)

The security interests of the Soviet Union can better be served by agreements to reduce conventional forces in Europe than by the two-plus-four negotiations. A CFE agreement would create a system of close observation and verification which should give all parties — including the Soviet Union — additional confidence in their security.

Whatever form the developments in Europe take, Soviet political influence on the continent is bound to diminish as the Soviet Union falls further and further behind Western Europe in economic, scientific and technological terms, and as a result of the end of the Cold War (which will also affect the United States' position in Europe).

But even though it will cease to be a superpower, the Soviet Union can remain a full participant in European politics, as it has been for the last three centuries at least.

Perhaps a smaller and more homogeneous Russia will find it easier to participate in the creation of a greater European Community.

The chance should not be missed.

The author is head of international security problems at the Institute of the USA and Canada Academy of Sciences of the USSR.

Where mouths are gagged in the cause of closed minds

Bernard Levin takes little comfort from the judicial ruling on freedom of speech at Liverpool University

From time to time, I have chronicled here the extraordinarily successful campaign waged by left-wing students at the University of Liverpool to abolish free speech on the campus, while the university authorities sternly said "Dear, dear" or "Fancy that". The persistent harassment suffered by the Liverpool University Conservative Association at the hands of the tiny totalitarians who have long dominated student political affairs there, has included their being refused access to university premises and denied facilities open to all student bodies. (Quite separately, there was a break-in at their office, whence money and sensitive files were removed.)

The free speech battle came to a head when the Conservative students invited two officials from the South African embassy to address a meeting at the university. The uncontrollable terror with which the tiny totalitarians viewed the mere possibility of hearing opinions (or, worse, facts) which they had not encountered before, engendered in them a determination to ensure that no such opinions or facts would be heard: they therefore decided to stop the meeting by force. (The Conservative students had made clear that there would be time for questions, but that, presumably, made things worse, for what if a question had been answered satisfactorily?)

All this has been a familiar story in many British universities for a good many years, though it is true that few university authorities have been quite as feeble as those at Liverpool. Since September 1987, however, legislation has been in force which lays upon the governing bodies of universities, however feeble, the duty of ensuring that lawful free speech is not denied on the campus.

Unfortunately, though I suppose inevitably, the legislation gave the universities an opportunity to evade their obligations; if it is not "reasonably practical" to make secure arrangements for the protection of free speech, the

authorities can, without penalty, relieve themselves of their duty. The catch is that it is the relieves who judge whether their duty can reasonably and practically be carried out, and to the surprise of no one who has followed the affairs of Liverpool University, its authorities on this occasion did judge that they would reasonably and practically allow free speech to be suppressed on their premises. They banned the meeting.

The Conservative students, a sturdy lot, regrouped and put in another application for such a meeting a few weeks later. This time, possibly embarrassed by the widespread stir the story was making, the authorities nerved themselves to defy the tiny totalitarians. They did, however, go to remarkable lengths to ensure that the entire meeting would be a waste of time for everybody concerned, by laying down a series of conditions so preposterous that many must have thought the list a hoax; the provisions included an insistence that only members of the Conservative Association should be allowed to attend, that no public announcement of the meeting should be made in any form, and that the cost of the university's duty to guard free speech should be paid entirely by the Conservative students.

After considerable adverse publicity, the Liverpool University authorities retreated, withdrawing most of the more ludicrous conditions, and five days later they banned that meeting too.

The Liverpool student Tories are not only a sturdy lot; they are also tenacious, and they determined to block the hole in the legislation behind which the university had covered (purists who insist that it is impossible to cover behind a hole should be advised that although that is generally true, Liverpool University has long managed the feat without difficulty). So they served a writ on the university, and last week the court delivered its judgment.

The judgment in question, though it was on the side of the applicants, was hardly less feeble than the authorities of the university.

The two judges agreed that the application had succeeded, but only because there had been threats of violence from the Liverpool suburb of Toxteth (not necessarily stimulated by the tiny totalitarians); the court read the Act to mean that the university was not entitled to take into account the possibility of violence "outside the confines of the University by persons not within its control". Clearly, extra-curricular totalitarians cannot be subject to Liverpool University's rules of good behaviour (neither, in practice, can the students come to think of it) and the vice-chancellor was therefore in the wrong.

But the judges made appallingly

clear that the university was

within its rights in imposing absurd and crippling conditions

on such a meeting. Worse, they said plainly that if the university had pleaded, as its reason for banning the meeting the danger of disorder only on the campus and among university members, no objection could have been taken within the legislation, though why, in that case, the judges thought the legislation had been passed into law is not clear. And another way, the applicants, though they won, were denied their costs.

The applicants did what they could with this bizarre decision, saying that "the court has handed a message to left and right extremists that the threat of public disorder will not now be sufficient grounds for trying to halt a meeting taking place on a university campus, and freedom of speech will prevail. Weak-willed university authorities will no

doubt of the source... and in even less doubt that he is likely to remain plain Frank for the rest of his days.

Political pull

Headyweight politicians will be taking the strain in the House of Commons to decide which most weight. Peers will be trying to make it third time lucky in the tug-of-war competition with the Commons. But this time the Commons, under the captaincy of Tatton Tory MP Neil Hamilton, who weighs in at 14 stone, are practising. "I just cannot allow another Commons flop," says Hamilton, who promised to wear his trademark bow tie for the occasion. "Peers behaved disgracefully in the past by engaging in training, so we will be doing the same." The strict disciplinarian is also insisting that his team of eight wear hobnail boots for the contest, which will be performed in front of the Houses of Parliament next month.

The Commons team will boast some of its most substantial MPs, including Nicholas Soames, Derek Conway, Sir James Spicer and Lewis Moonie. But the Lords team will have some imposing figures of its own: Viscount Dillhorn, Lord Colwyn, Lord Strathclyde, a junior employment minister, and Lord Hesketh (a junior environment minister). Proceeds Macmillan Fund. The Lords team is relieved that Hamilton failed to recruit one MP who would have tipped the scales in the Commons' favour... Sir Cyril Smith.

Walesa's flame of freedom

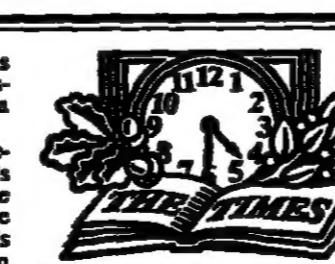
Maribor country has a new resident, Philip Morris, the American cigarette company famous for its macho cowboy, has paid an undisclosed sum to Lech Walesa, the Polish Solidarity leader, to promote its products — though without actually mentioning them — in the face of an increasingly powerful campaign by the anti-smoking lobby. He will figure in a \$60 million advertising effort, built around the bicentenary of the



American Bill of Rights, which claims that smoking is a matter of "freedom of choice".

Philip Morris regards Walesa as the ideal champion of its cause, since his name has become synonymous with freedom. The full-page colour advertisements, appearing in *Time*, *Newsweek* and other magazines, do not mention tobacco or smoking, but quote the pipe-smoking Walesa as saying: "I've read the Bill of Rights a hundred times and I'll probably read it a hundred more before I die... Freedom may be the soul of humanity, but you have to struggle."

"Is Italy," he said.



DIARY

wood and Charles Tremayne, Peter Hall, editor of ITN's *Oracle*, former party press officer Monica Foot, who now runs media relations for the City of Birmingham, and two internal candidates, Colin Byrne and Jim Parish. The strongest of the bunch, however, seems to be David Hill, for many years Roy Hattersley's right-hand man, popular with lobby journalists, and with the right street-fighting credentials.

Another reason for the lack of big names may be the widely held belief — despite a public denial — that if Neil Kinnock moves into Number Ten after the next election, the man he will ask to be his Bernhard Ingham is Alastair Campbell, the able political editor of the *Daily Mirror*.

CND timebomb

A forgotten court case has returned to haunt CND. In 1983 it sought a High Court injunction requiring the Coalition for Peace through Security to withdraw a spool CND leaflet with a hammer-and-sickle superimposed over the CND symbol. The request was refused, and the CND was awarded legal costs of

£1,000. Because CND gave notice of appeal, it was not required to pay there and then. The appeal period has now elapsed — and instead of £1,000, CND has just had to hand over a cheque for £1,960 to the three men who ran the CPTs: Julian Lewis, now an adviser at Conservative Central Office, Tony Kerpel, right-hand man to the Tory chairman, Kenneth Baker, and Edward Leigh, now a Tory MP. Of the extra £960, inflation accounts for £500 and the remainder, in Lewis's words, is a bill for CND's "seven years of dithering". At the 1983 hearing, the CPTs was represented by Douglas Hogg, now a government minister, who demolished CND's case by producing a similar parody of a Home Office document... published by CND.

DOCTOR

Killer shellfish join mad cow fears on our dinner plates

Last weekend, John Selwyn Gummer, the Minister for Agriculture, joined seven robed bishops at the head of 8,000 pilgrims who shuffled through the narrow streets of Walsingham, in Norfolk. For the onlookers, other than a few hundred low churchmen who shouted taunts, it seemed an appropriate place for the minister to say his prayers, for Walsingham, a place of pilgrimage since the Middle Ages, is in the heart of beef and barley country and only a few miles from the north Norfolk coast, famed for its cockles, mussels and crabs.

Mr Gummer, already battling against the catastrophic effect of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), or mad cow disease, on the beef industry, now has to contend with the problem of shellfish contaminated by toxins from blue-green algae.

Fortunately, although some inland water in East Anglia already has a thick coating of the algae and last year sheep and cattle that drank from these lakes died, the Norfolk coast has so far escaped the high levels — up to 30 times higher than those considered safe — found in the north-east which prompted the authorities to advise people from the Humber to Montrose to avoid cockles, mussels, shrimps and prawns, as well as the crabs and lobster that feed off them.

Shellfish are able to concentrate, and accumulate, the mass of toxins produced by the algae — including the potentially lethal saxitoxin, okadaic acid and domoic acid — in their black glands, leaving the rest of the flesh unaffected and apparently healthy. If the shellfish, black gland included, is eaten, the toxins so harmless to the fish can be fatal to the human. The poisons act in two ways: they damage the central

nervous system, causing at the best a severe headache, at the worst paralysis, and affect the guts, with resultant pain, nausea and vomiting. The damage occurs at cell level and follows the breaking down of the regulatory mechanism that carefully balances the intracellular proportions of sodium, potassium and calcium. The toxins are resistant to cooking, but the shellfish will cleanse themselves in a few weeks once the weather changes and the concentration of the algae lessens.

We are usually lucky with shellfish in Britain, provided they are fresh and not contaminated by bacteria or viruses from sewage-polluted water, but diners should beware of choosing shellfish, or for that matter any fish, that is displayed alive in a restaurant tank or bucket; it may be freshly killed for the table, but the water it has come from is likely to be stagnant and suspect.

In parts of America, the situation is different: there is a risk of poisoning each summer when the shellfish feed on organisms in the plankton that produce neurotoxins. The Japanese, too, are vulnerable to different toxin in their shellfish; it can destroy the ability of the blood to clot, thereby dealing with dinner party guests as if they were rats that had been fed warfarin.

In Japan and China, some fish are so poisonous that taking them was a traditional way of committing suicide.

The most poisonous of the Far Eastern fish contains fugu, a toxin that acts in the same way as curare. Death occurs within two or three hours of eating the fish.

In Britain, we need only to beware of the roe of pike and barbel, which can cause a severe gastroenteritis, and of mackerel, and then only if its flesh has started to decompose to produce a



histamine-type toxin. This causes scombrotoxicosis, characterized by flushing, urticaria, rash, vomiting and sometimes collapse.

Time for truce in the cyclotron war

In recent times, one of the most bitter medical wars has been fought over the cyclotron, a machine for producing high-energy neutron beams which can be used to irradiate inoperable tumours. Advocates of this form of treatment claim that press reports over the weekend of 33 deaths had been stimulated by deliberate leaks of the continuing discussions, and are

no more than the recycling of old statistics derived from a time when earlier machines were in use, and before new technology made it possible to minimize tissue damage around the tumour being treated. It is suggested that these reports were designed to bolster lingering fears and made little mention of the hundreds of British people, and more than 10,000 worldwide, who have had otherwise inoperable cancers of the salivary glands, post-nasal spaces and melanoma of the eye treated without catastrophe. By its very nature, the treatment was given to patients whose outlook would otherwise have been bleak, so that the battle does not so much rage over its efficacy in saving a life, but more around the tissue damage which, when the old

technology was used, sometimes only saved or prolonged the life at unacceptable cost — for some survivors their remaining years or months became a nightmare.

The supporters of the therapy claim that to compare the damage wrought by the older machines in a minority of patients with the results achieved with a new cyclotron — which produces a narrow beam, shaped to the tumour, so that surrounding tissue is spared — is as intellectually dishonest as it would be to threaten patients in a modern X-ray department with the horrendous complications of radiation that were prevalent in the Madame Curie era.

Certainly at the moment it seems unfortunate that the existing centre at Clatterbridge Hospital in Wirral, near Liverpool, is under-utilized. This may be partly because doctors in the area are reluctant to recommend radiation therapy — in the north-west of England, only 17 per cent of patients with malignancies are referred for radiation therapy, compared to 40 per cent in the south-east — but also because of the fear engendered in patients by the controversy.

Dr George Laramore, an American radiation oncologist who is in Britain lecturing on the use of the cyclotron, has no doubt that when the data from the American trials are analysed, which will take a year or two, the cyclotron will be vindicated and become an established tool in cancer treatment.

Dr Laramore said: "It is unfortunate in Britain that the fire of the battle is in danger of obscuring scientific evidence. Many British physicians would agree that the time has now come to devise a peace formula which will allow both sides to settle their differences without loss of face."

Diet risk reaches new heights

The half of the British adult population who make some attempt, however feeble, to slim each year may have felt a twinge of envy when they read that Brian Blessed, the actor, had shed five stone while filming at more than 20,000ft in the Himalayas. Mr Blessed, who is 5ft 10in and usually weighs 16st, was overweight by any standards, but such sudden unplanned weight loss — even without the added dangers of altitude sickness — might permanently damage his health.

While on Everest, Mr Blessed noticed several of the symptoms of cerebral oedema; he hallucinated and became verbose and tearful. He failed to recognize his wife at the airport, and she has since noticed that he has lost some of his former intellectual agility. Mr Blessed found that the altitude sickness induced anorexia and that he had a particular aversion to meat. In any diet when the protein intake is less than 60 or 70 grammes a day, patients not only lose muscle fibres from limb muscles and the heart muscle, but their kidneys and liver also atrophy. Cardiac efficiency is lost, and Mr Blessed risked a possible arrhythmia in a heart overtaxed by the altitude and then subjected to protein loss and low potassium.

Sudden weight loss and altitude sickness reduce the body's ability to fight disease. Protein lack is particularly dangerous while climbing, as it undermines the heat-control mechanism, and makes the patient liable to hypothermia. Slimmers should feel concern rather than envy, and resolve that their diet will be balanced.

Old wives' tales about the perils of childbirth are seldom believed these days. But last weekend brought the publication of some modern obstetric horror stories, courtesy of the *British Medical Journal* (BMJ). They were included in a report on obstetric accidents which analysed 64 births in which all the babies died or suffered brain damage, and four mothers also died, after medical mismanagement.

Although these tragedies occurred over a five-year period, in which more than three million births occurred in England and Wales, the authors believe they are not isolated incidents.

The report also reopened important questions about the level and appropriateness of medical intervention in normal childbirth. Its conclusion is that, in the cases it examined, junior doctors were inadequately trained and supervised.

As a result, fetal heart monitoring was inadequate, with signs of foetal distress going unnoticed in 14 of the 64 cases; forceps deliveries were mismanaged, and in

Are babies born into the very best of hands?

A BMJ report has raised questions about who should supervise difficult births. Ann Kent reports

about a third of cases senior staff failed to come to the labour ward when needed. In some instances, senior house officers (SHO) were over-confident and failed to realize they needed expert help. (Despite the "senior" in the title, the SHO is a newly qualified doctor who is often in his or her first obstetric post and is training under the supervision of a consultant.)

Yet, despite these findings, giving birth appears to be safer than ever. Maternal deaths in

childbirth, counted in the thousands just a couple of generations ago, are now rare. But public expectations have risen as death rates have dropped, and we do not expect them to deliver to end in disaster.

According to Geoffrey Chamberlain, professor of obstetrics and gynaecology at St George's Hospital Medical School, London, the perinatal death rate — stillbirths or

deaths in the first week of life — tells us little about avoidable obstetric mishaps. "The perinatal mortality rate is still very largely determined by the social and economic background of the baby. The maternal mortality rate is a better measure of obstetric performance."

Professor Chamberlain adds: "Junior doctors should never feel hesitant to call on consultants for advice — if they are, then it is an indictment of the consultant. However, an analysis of 64 cases where things went wrong is

about as biased as me producing 64 letters from grateful patients as an example of our efficiency."

Mary Newburn, the national secretary of the National Childbirth Trust (NCT), believes that the BMJ report should be taken seriously: "We are particularly concerned that in some cases teaching hospitals are not as safe as they should be."

A strange feature of many consultants' working contracts is that while they may be responsible for 800 women at a time, they are not expected to put in sessions on the labour ward.

However, Hinchinbrooke Hospital in Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, has solved the problem of the unsupervised junior doctor by involving consultants in every complicated case. Mr Jonathan Brooks, a consultant obstetrician, says: "If an operative procedure is needed, then it is done by one of the consultants, or under the supervision of a consultant."

"When problems arise in other hospitals, the midwife calls the SHO, who calls the registrar, who may call the consultant," Hinchinbrooke has no registrar. "Our midwife colleagues call us directly if help is needed."

"As a unit," he adds, "we are unique, and very much under the political microscope, because this type of system is cheaper for health authorities to run."

The Hinchinbrooke unit, which delivers about 2,300 babies a year, attempts to minimize obstetric intervention. "All of us are agreed," Mr Brooks says, "that where the antenatal period is normal we interfere as little as possible." However, even at Hinchinbrooke the induction rate (in which labour is started by artificial means) is rather high at 19 per cent.

Both the NCT and the Maternity Alliance, another pressure group, have questioned why out of the 64 cases analysed, there were 24 inductions, 31 cases where forceps were used and 26 Caesarean sections. The researchers said they were unable to assess whether medical technology had been misused, because in many cases the records failed to explain the rationale for the intervention.

Marjorie Tew, a medical statistician who has spent 15 years comparing the performance of hi-tech hospital units with other forms of obstetric care, says: "Only a tiny minority of women need medical intervention."

Mrs Tew, author of *Safer Childbirth*, attributes much of the improvement in mortality

to the fact that mothers are now healthier and better nourished than in the past. "I don't believe you can show any correlation between intervention and the decline in mortality," she says.

Dr Iain Chalmers, the director of the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit, in Oxford, is one of the three editors of *Effective Care in Pregnancy and Childbirth*, which challenges the benefits of allowing low-risk women to be cared for by consultant obstetricians. "It is inherently unsafe, and perhaps unsafe," the book says, "for women with normal pregnancies to be cared for by obstetric specialists."

Dr Chalmers concludes:

"The vast majority of pregnant women and their babies are healthy. This places a particular responsibility on people who wish to recommend intervention to back up their recommendations with strong evidence that these are more likely to do good than harm. It is far easier to make healthy people sick than it is to make them better."

• *Safer Childbirth: A Critical History of Maternal Care*, by Marjorie Tew, is published by Chapman and Hall (£14.95).

• *Effective Care in Pregnancy and Childbirth*, (£22.50) and a shorter version, *A Guide to Effective Care in Pregnancy and Childbirth* (£9.95), are published by Oxford University Press.

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YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

THE continuity of care provided by a new team midwifery service in Kidlington and Yarnton, Oxfordshire, is creating such confidence between midwife and mother that mothers are needing less analgesia. Some believe that the resulting close relationship and satisfaction may eventually reduce litigation between dissatisfied mothers and hospitals (litigation has doubled over the past five years, and a single case relating to a brain-damaged baby may now cost £1 million). The Royal College of Midwives recently raised members' indemnity cover from £500,000 to £700,000 for a single case.

In the Oxfordshire scheme, mothers (including those with complications) are cared for by midwives they know, throughout pregnancy and in labour itself. In the event of an emergency during labour, the midwife will call in the registrar (who is senior to a senior house officer) or consultant. One consultant is always on call.

The Oxfordshire midwives are a closely knit team, with similar philosophies and a flexible approach. They visit mothers at home, initially to take

the case history but also to lay the foundations of the relationship with the mother. The mother looks after her own notes and takes them to hospital for the routine consultant checks. Regular visits are made to one of three local clinics, where midwives and GPs work alongside each other. At 34 to 36 weeks, each mother has a labour talk at her home, when her wishes and fears are discussed and recorded in her notes.

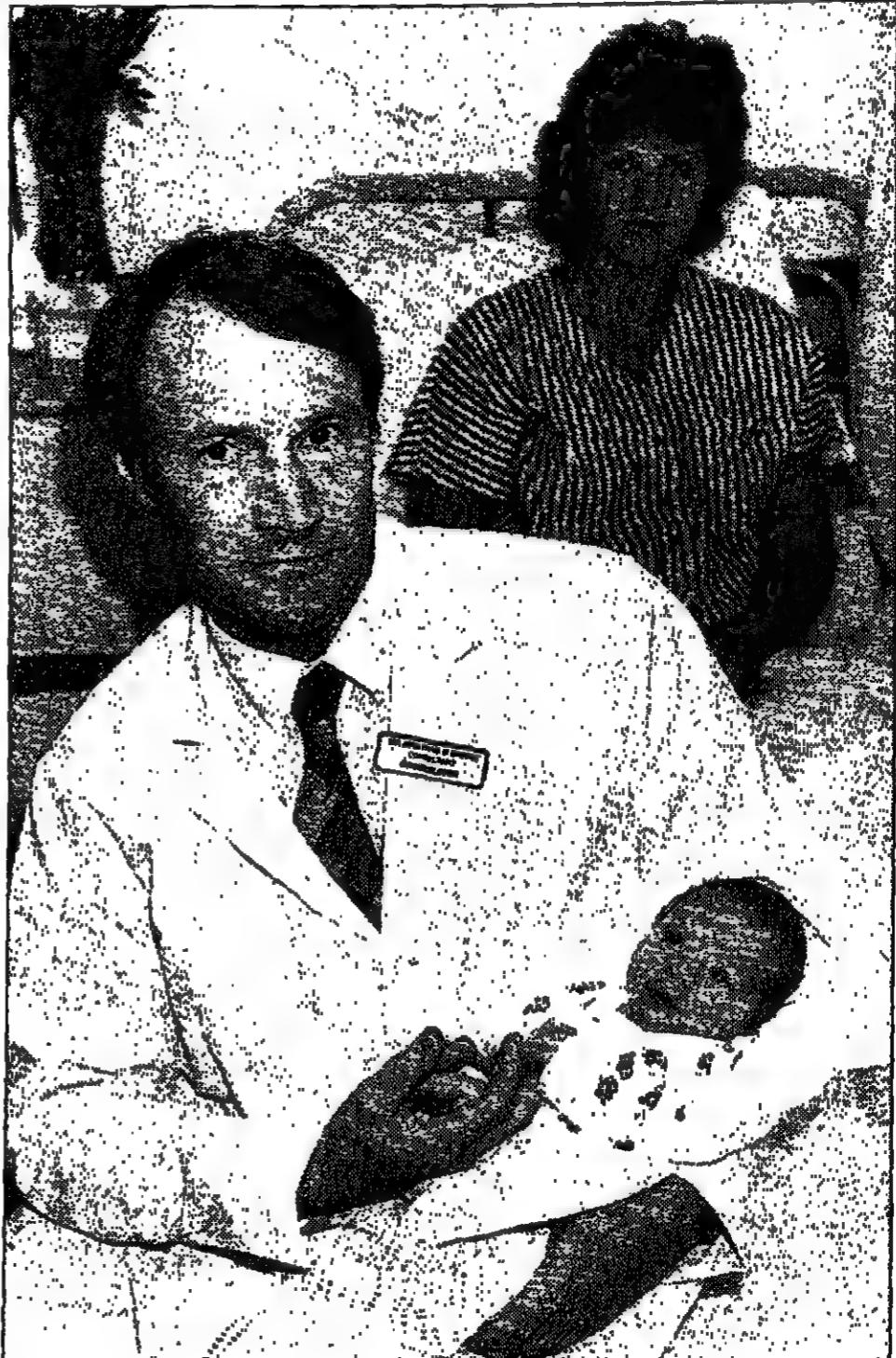
For Deborah Little this was an enormous relief, as she had experienced a long, difficult labour which ended with a Caesarean section for her first child three years ago in another district. "No one explained what was going on, or seemed to care," she says. "I was very frightened." She discussed these fears with Vicky Bailey, one of the midwives, who along with the others was able to offer her emotional support and alerted the hospital to her anxieties. A Caesarean section was planned and 8lb Stephanie was born. "I enjoyed the birth," Mrs Little says. "I am not tired and I am enjoying the baby."

The scheme is the brainchild of Lesley Page, the director of Oxfordshire's Midwifery Services. One of the larger local health authorities, Oxfordshire has 6,000 births annually and a midwifery staff of 320. "The standard organization of UK midwifery care is fragmented," Ms Page says. "Mothers see several different medical teams and probably 30 to 40 different faces between the confirmation of pregnancy and the birth."

THE midwives on the teams believe that the significant decrease in the use of analgesia in labour (associated with an increase in satisfaction with pregnancy and birth itself) is partly due to the emotional support that they can give during labour, which reduces anxiety. This in turn helps mothers deal with pain more adequately.

Sceptics say that this scheme is elitist and may not be cost-effective, but Ms Page is confident that it will prove to be economical because it will eliminate inflexible staffing of delivery units and reduce the length of hospitalization. If it also reduces litigation, it will be hugely valuable.

PETA LEVI



FREE WITH THE CLASSIC LITERATURE WEEKLY

Story of America from scratch

THE ICE-SHIRT calls itself a novel, but this seems like unnecessary genre-modesty. A Nordic saga, a dream-book, a vast pastiche, a travelogue, it crosses genre-boundaries like a virus crossing frontiers. Full of enticements but many more frustrations, it is remarkable, rudely inventive, drunkenly daring, and, finally, intolerable.

It is in fact the first of Seven Dreams, which together (writes Vollmann) will form "a book of North American landscapes", and a "symbolic history" of North America from its earliest days. This history begins for Vollmann in the prehistoric and early history of the Norse Greenlanders, and the novel draws heavily on the old Nordic sagas from Greenland and Iceland, moving happily between 30,000 BC and about AD 1600, with occasional sightings of the present day. I have never read anything like it. It makes the old, generational novels of the family sagas, or indeed of the Bible, look like petty domestic dramas with only a few players. There are literally hundreds of fictional characters and historical figures in this book. There are maps and drawings (by Vollmann himself). There are 15 pages of sources (the two chief ones being *The Tale of the Greenlanders* and *Erik's Saga*) and 23 pages of glossary – but it is also the kind of novel that would cheerfully fabricate its sources and then make a heavy, professional display of its own erudition, just for the fun of it.

THE STORY is familiar enough. Victor is young, talented, and dying of leukaemia. Hilary is by his side, deeply in love, helping him await his untimely death. As in Erich Segal's *Love Story* (swinned with this novel in the publisher's blurb), the lovers are not social equals: Victor's circle is rich, Ivy League, and full of young women divorcing polo players, whereas Hilary has no WASP credentials and shoplifts. Nor do they let their differences lie in *Dying Young*. There is as much smashing of glass and slamming of doors as there is mopping of brows and plumping up of pillows.

Besides, Hilary is a saintly virgin though it is, one need not fear for one's bearings – at least, not until the end. The dust-jacket may be littered with comparisons to *Death in Venice* and *Terms of Endearment*, and the setting may be depressive, out-of-season New England coastline, but this is a soaring novel because it eschews the pull of sentimentality for the busyness of "real life". Sadness is there all right, but like piped music at a rush-hour station: all but drowned in relentless activity. There is Gordon, for instance, a married man who falls for Hilary and betrays Victor, thereby forcing an extraordinary love triangle. Gordon offers Hilary solace, a straightforward relationship in contrast to the "mass emotional confusion" of life with Victor. And then there are the intrusions of Estelle and her crazy pink sunglasses, and of Victor's father, who thinks (like his son used to) that mutant blood cells are as conquerable as freshman physics or Sunday hangovers. What raises *Dying Love* from the formulaic tear-jerking novel of

James Wood reviews a way-out Nordic saga, travelogue, and seriously adventurous modernist book that takes some reading

There are jokes (Vollmann refers to himself as William the Blind throughout the book). It is like Sterne crossed with Pynchon and fed through *Tales of the Vikings*. What is immediately impres-

THE ICE-SHIRT
By William T. Vollmann
André Deutsch, £14.95

sive about this novel (before one has a chance to recoil from its intricate hubris, its self-involved vastness) is Vollmann's control of various languages – the 18th century travel journal, the epic, the ancient chronicle. Here, for instance, in all its florid typography, is Vollmann's title page. It deserves to be quoted in full:

Seven Dreams ABOUT OUR CONTINENT IN THE DAYS OF THE SUN making Explicit

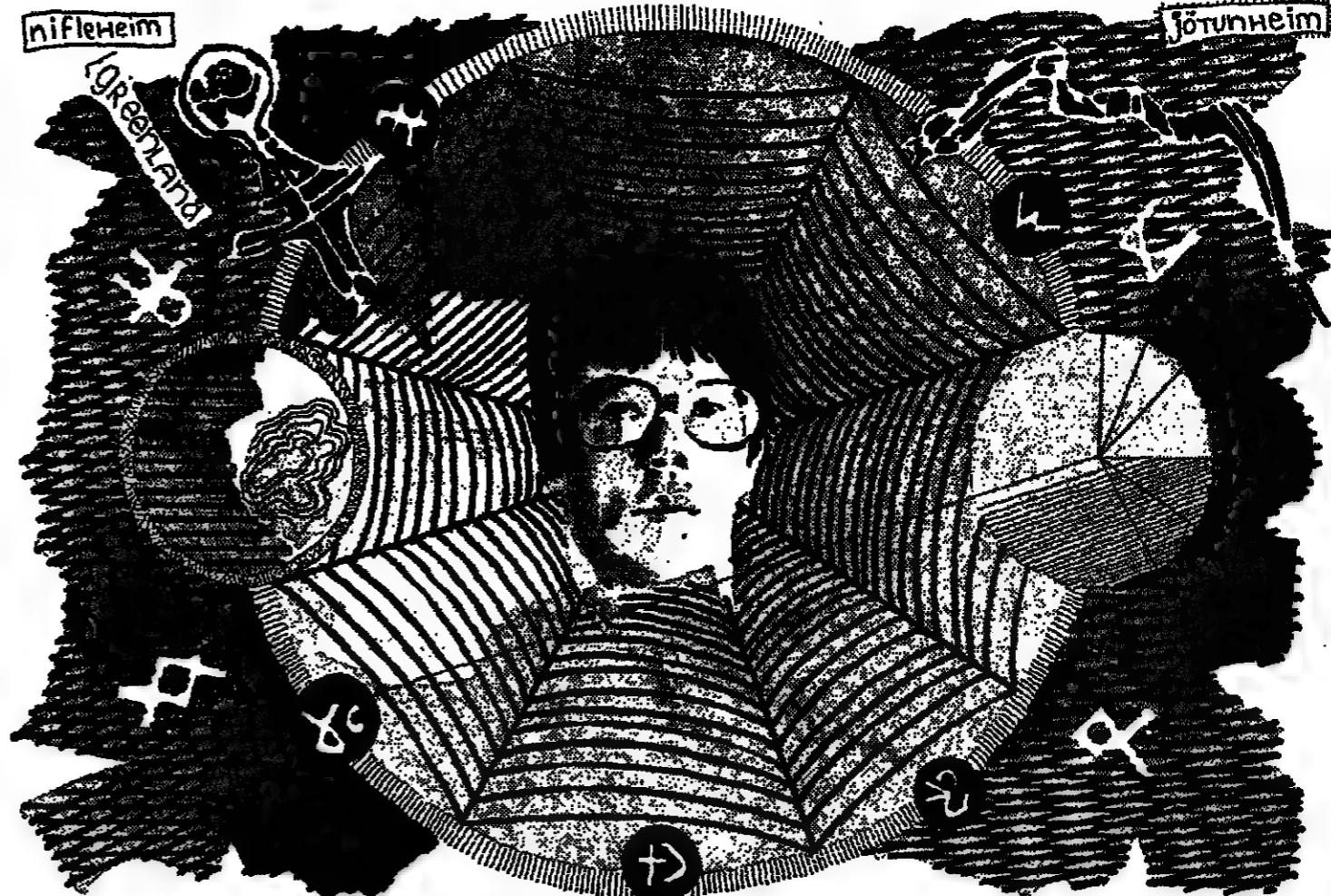
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many "REVELATIONS" concerning Trees and Rivers, Ascension, ETERNITIES, Vikings, Crow-Fathers, TRESPASSES, EXECUTIONS, ASSASSINATIONS, MASSACRES, Whirlpool-Lives, Love-Souls, and Monster-Souls, Dead Worlds Wherein we made FOUNDATIONS OUT OF PROLE-HILLS; Voyages Across the Frozen Sea Told COMPLETE with Accounts of Various TREACHEROUS ESCAPES, White Sweet Clover, GOLDEN-ROD & "The Fern Gang" As Gathered From DIVERSE SOURCES by William T. Vollmann (known in this world as "WILLIAM THE BLIND").

This is good, post-modern fun (note the punning, and the slangy billing of "The Fern Gang", like a rock concert poster). The language soon settles down however, into irritating mock-epic archaism, inflated diction, orotund phrasing, and worst of all, infuriating Nordic compounds. These last are plentiful: "fang-teeth", "sea-wave", "bear-cloak", "lust-age" (as when Ingald had grown into his lust-age), and even, "quarrelling-age" (as in, "his sons not yet grown to quarrelling-age"). All one can say to this, is that being a vigorous writer, Vollmann sets the language to much word-work under his pen, and so produces a real language-monster.

It is impossible to recount the plot of this book, because it is impossible to follow it. One of the problems is the huge fund of Nordic names with which Vollmann buys off the



responsibilities of plot. As well as Aslf and Torgil, there is Earl Röllaug, Swanchild Eystein-daughter, Asfild Ringsdaughter, Eric Bloody-Axe, Thorstein and Guðrid (one shouts "Gudriddance" to her when she departs from the text), Freydis Eirkisdotir and a little boy named Angangujungoq. These names soon melt into one vast Nordic archetype, and after only 50 pages of this kind of thing one longs to set sail for the land of William the

Blind (Vollmann lives in America) and wage war on him. Vollmann's dream soon becomes a reader's nightmare.

What is problematic here is

that, like science fiction, *The Ice-SHIRT* uses the liberties and license of the romance-genre (the fantasy, the archetypal characters, the gnarled language) but then, unlike romance, refuses to connect with reality in any meaningful way. With romance, the interest is precisely in its relation to reality,

the small reality gap between the text and the world. But Vollmann's text has no relation to the world (let alone to anything as specific as the North American landscape). It relates only to itself, to its own childish intricacies and toys, to its complex scaffolding of names and sources. It gazes into the pool, sees only itself, and promptly falls in love with what it sees. I picture Vollmann sitting somewhere in California, monkishly isolated and imprisoned by

the enchanting web of his own fabrications – or perhaps like the caged monkey Nabokov wrote about which, when encouraged to communicate with humans on paper, could draw only the vertical bars of its cage. This is sad, because *The Rainbow Stories*, Vollmann's last book, proved that he is capable of better things. It is time for his publishers to dissuade him from writing another six dreams, and unlock him from his cell.

A love story with blurb and blubbing

Sarah Edworthy

DYING YOUNG
By Marti Leimbach
Hamish Hamilton, £12.99

MUESLI AT MIDNIGHT
By Adam Matthews
Secker & Warburg, £12.95

THE LOVERS AND THE LOVED
By Harriet Crawley
Heinemann, £12.95

popular appeal is Leimbach's sense of individual will: her characters honour their instincts at whatever cost. Hilary voluntarily exposed herself when she answered Victor's ad for a nurse/companion: anything to escape home. Victor willingly abandoned chemotherapy because it had made him feel his body was merely hospital property: his point was that self-preservation can exist only as long as one feels there is a sense of self to preserve. Gordon claims Hilary despite the feelings of her dying lover. One feels Victor's decline page

by page. Every incidental detail fits a nerve, from his vomiting of "rust-red" blood to his psychological monopoly on the affection of all around him. One image in particular embodies the sense of a wasted, vibrant life. Annoyed by his obsession for shooting rats, Hilary makes Victor bury the noisy antique gun that he has cried and shined for years. Later in the novel, as his health deteriorates, she thinks of it "lying in the damp earth rusting. This, in my quiet way, I asked for." The end of this remarkable first novel is deeply affecting.

Muesli at Midnight tackles the same themes of sex and death, taking in religion and throwing out story-line. Theo and Felicity are two medical students cycling around Ireland with a skeleton of the Archbishop of Dublin on their tandem, raising money for a cancer charity. From hotel to prison to a hearse, Theo is forever theologizing "such is life"; Felicity is full of observations such as "wondering is very feminine; conversely, femininity is a wonder". Her motto is "if in doubt, undress", just as Theo, ultimately, thinks that the bottom line of life

is the line of Felicity's bottom. The novel's interest is in word-play, bawdy banter, the chateau wines of language, the sex of words. And there are some good bits. Like the moment when Felicity threw her eyes to heaven – "that was the closest she ever came to metaphysics". And some cringing bits – "her breasts were beautiful, like nothing on earth, the despair of metaphor". Thank God for that, you think, after an overdose of gratuitous cleverness and fascination for assonance. Somehow one feels – to join in on the word-play – one has been taken for a ride.

In contrast, *Harriet Crawley's The Lovers and the Loved* is a cosy world of career worries and dry cleaning tickets. Puffed as being strongly autobiographical, it is a hymn to unmarried motherhood: all gurgling smiles and no teething problems. Eleanor Wynne, a successful portrait painter, longs for a husband and children, but discovers they don't come easy. She finds potential husbands generally are good-looking, nice – and criminally dull. Lovers, like the flamboyant opera director Vincent Buonarroti, can be ugly, wicked, and unworthy. But when it comes to fulfilling her natural right to become a mother, who cares? This novel is a low-key, warm-hearted meander through the international art and opera world, and you can tell Miss Crawley (a one-time parliamentary candidate) is a good politician, for Eleanor's raffish artist's world is paralleled by the single motherhood of one of her punk house models – "that's a laugh, innit? I mean, you and me, knocked up and no dad in sight!"

ANOTHER novel about the troubles of the English middle classes might sound like a bad idea. Is there anything left to say? But it's what can't be said that interests Isabel Colegata's *Decrets of Time* is marvellously alert to the repressions and evasions that surround the English and their sense of the past. When Catherine Hillery is commissioned to write a biography of a Thirties politician, the task promises to be straightforward. Neil Campion was a hero. Blue-eyed and glamorous, a flying ace in the First World War, later a Junior Minister in Churchill's cabinet, his early death in a road accident seems to put a tragic stop to a life marked for greatness. What Catherine finds instead is a tangle of blocked aspirations and concealed passions that transforms her sedate biography into a thriller. The surviving family has spun a web of remembrance to answer its own needs, and it gives a sour welcome to any attempt to intrude on their private images. Campion, too, turns out to have lived according to a hidden dream that evolved into a nightmare. And even Catherine, biographer become detective, is forced to confront injustices created by fabricating memories she has brooded over for years. *Decrets of Time* warns of the beguiling dangers of romanticism that most English of vines. But it does so with a light and compassionate touch. It is a mark of Colegata's distinction that the book's bleak revelations are finally poignant rather than repellent.

Gabrielle Donnelly takes a brisker line. *Fanty Ground* is a rapid and confident novel, with an engaging relish for the hazards of

Sedate biog turns thriller

PAPERBACKS

Dinah Birch

DECRETS OF TIME
By Isabel Colegata
Penguin, £4.99

FAULTY GROUND
By Gabrielle Donnelly
Penguin, £3.99

THE GENERAL INTERRUPTOR
By Alex Martin
Penguin, £4.99

the games people play. Professor Susan Barnes, competent and self-contained, is about to embark on a new edition of *Emma* when the ceiling of her London flat falls in. Made homeless by builders and plasterers, she decides to take herself and her books to her cousin's house in Los Angeles. She soon finds that the endless Californian sunshine throws a new light on the constraints of her very

English existence. California makes Englishness look small.

A bewildered response to the seductive freedoms that California offers solidifies into something harder and colder, as Susan realizes that she too can snatch a version of California's well-being. But it would be at the expense of her moral identity, for the expansive horizons of this enchanting country rest on uncertainty and violence. The luxurious houses of Susan's new friends are all built on a fault. Susan – who emerges as an old-fashioned girl, after all – learns that she can never find a home among the golden folk of Los Angeles. *Faulty Ground* celebrates the bruising processes of self-recognition. This is a book in praise of faith, though it is only in escaping English perspectives that Susan can perceive where her own loyalties lie.

Alex Martin also writes about the need to see England from a foreign perspective. Paul Smith feels trapped by his respectable job in London. He horriples family and friends by fleeing to the sunlight and cheap wine of Italy, where he earns a sybaritic living as a teacher of English. His amorous and professional adventures are recorded with style and wit. But an undertow of melancholy tugs at the pleasurable exuberance, for *The General Interruptor* is a novel about exile. Paul finds he cannot stomach the drab limitations of an English life bounded by instant coffee and the national obsession with television, yet he remains a perpetual stranger in Italy. A conventionally happy ending is proposed, but it rings hollow beside the sombre note of alienation which haunts this book.

Femcop of windy city

CRIME

Marcel Berlins

BURN MARKS
By Sara Paretsky
Chautauq & Windus, £13.95

the former, it turns out, is also – perhaps primarily – seeking the truth about his father. In less expert hands such a complex exercise, involving constant switching between the atmospheres and moods of several decades, could have been disastrous. But Symons is such a master of time, mood, and character, and continues to write with such finesse that complexities are overtaken by admiration for another in a line of superior crime novels.

• *The End of Lieutenant Boruvka*, by Josef Skvorecky (Faber, £12.99). Boruvka is a splendidly melancholic homicide cop in Prague, around the period of the Dubcek spring and Soviet invasion. He has a 16-year-old pregnant daughter, incompetent colleagues, and masters whose decisions are often politically rather than professionally founded. The book's five tales of murder work wonderfully as straightforward criminal investigations, but there's an inevitable political underlay – the original was published in 1975 during the dark years (though not in Czechoslovakia itself). Read it how you will, it's witty and entertaining. Boruvka is a true original.

• *Death's Darkest Face*, by Julian Symons (Macmillan, £12.95). The format is old-fashioned and initially off-putting: the author, Symons himself, is reading a manuscript by a chap who has just died. Geoffrey Elder, written during the Sixties but looking back to the unexplained disappearance, in the Thirties, of rakish poet Hugo Headley. Both Elder and the armchair Symons investigate;

murderer with a grudge is released on parole; and a psychopathic killer is on the loose. Not edifying subject matter, I grant you, and the climax is not vintage tea party stuff, but Campbell writes with a compelling power.

• *Listening In The Dark*, by Celia Fremlin (Gollancz, £12.95). Newly divorced, still distressed middle-aged woman opts for new life in grubby boarding house full of assorted misfits, one of them with a dark secret which starts slowly to emerge. Fremlin is good at portraying tangential uneasy relationships, and very good indeed at weaving an atmosphere of encroaching sinister tension.

• *The Nonnaive Case*, by Edward Mackin (Macmillan, £12.95). Lively, literate, jokey tale of death in bitchy, third-rate academe, with the headship of the English department up for grabs, an illiterate and violent student demanding to be passed or else, and plagiarized poems sent to obscure journals.

• *The Dwarves of Death*, by Jonathan Coe (Fourth Estate, £12.95). Punchy, disturbing story of a not very good (but Andrew Lloyd Webber hating) pianist witnessing bizarre killing in seedy Islington flat; the motive is buried in an obscure song from the punk era. Coe is strong on describing London's musical underclass, and the places where ever-hopeful, broke, unsuccessful musicians go to drink, listen, and make bad demo tapes; but the hero William is too wimpish for the milieu.

• *A Temporary Ghost*, by Mickey Friedman (Gollancz, £12.95). American journo Georgia Lee Maxwell travels to farmhouse in Provence to ghost the memoirs of a tempestuous socialite, universally believed to have bumped off her rich hubby, but never charged because of her lover's stout alibi. Georgia Lee's presence provokes new confidences, fresh evidence, and unsuspected motives.



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We don't think you need go as far as Paul Johnson, who recently wrote "I once scrutinized the book reviews in all the national qualities pretty carefully. Not any more. I am now very eclectic and there are some weeks when I don't bother with them at all, simply reading the *Times Literary Supplement*." But if you are a serious reader, you shouldn't be without the TLS. Subscribe now, and take advantage of our new subscription offer.

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LITERATURE

Publish and be damned brave

Bookseller Ike Ong talks to Clive Davis about his plans to publish long-neglected Gothic novels and George Eliot's collected poems

What's the most unusual title that a customer has asked for? Ike Ong, owner of Skoob Books, the secondhand booksellers, does not need much time to find an answer. "It was a book about the sex life of homosexual mice."

That, you may be glad to hear, is one title that Ong will be avoiding in his new role as one of London's newest independent publishers. Based at his two popular shops around the corner from the British Museum, the Malaysian-born bibliophile has unveiled an imprint of his own, aimed at the serious readers and browsers who frequent his premises in search of rare or out-of-print books.

"In the early days there was nothing unusual about booksellers being publishers too," he avers. "We're fed up with seeing the Americanization of publishing. All these corporate take-overs are pushing out the quality books. Publishing is something that Britain has always excelled in."

These are bold words at a time when the publishing industry is going through one of its depressions. With an editorial staff of six, Ong is planning an idiosyncratic selection which will include 18th-century Gothic novels, the collected poems of George Eliot and a turn-of-the-century account of Australian life, written by Hwang-Ung, a travelling Mandarin. About a dozen titles should be available by the end of the year.

The books hardly sound like the stuff of best-seller lists, but Ong and Lucien Jenkins, his literary editor, are confident that there will be a market for them, particularly among academics and specialists. The Gothic novels, for instance –

Francis Lathom's *The Midnight Bell* and Peter Teulon's *The Necromancer* – were the pulp fiction of their day, full of dark castles and absurd twists of plot. Jane Austen satirized the genre in *Northanger Abbey*, mentioning the two books by name when Catherine Morland, her heroine, drools over a list of leisure reading: "Are they all horrid?" she squeals. "Are you sure they are all horrid?"

Today, Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* is regarded as the archetypal Gothic story. According to Ong and Jenkins, the less celebrated potboilers were actually far more representative. "It's always interesting to trace back this kind of popular fiction," Ong adds. "The Stephen Kings of today are influenced by Victorian writers such as Bram Stoker (author of *Dracula*), who grew out of the 18th-century tradition. The Gothic may not excel in literary terms, but they work in the thriller context – though it is a typical 18th-century style, not your snappy James-Bond-type read."

Skoob first tried its hand at publishing in 1987, when it issued its *Directory of Secondhand Bookshops*. The new list is to be divided into four sections: Literature, Art, Oriental and – reflecting the shop's ample stock of books on the supernatural – Esoterica. As for a catalogue, there is a *Skoob Review*, a literary and cultural magazine which contains extracts from various titles.

Most hopes are being pinned on George Eliot's *Collected Poems*, due out in August, which is said to be the first comprehensive collection ever put into print. The book is Jenkins' pet project; to gather some of the more obscure

items involved, correspondence with the custodians of the Eliot collection at the Beineke Rare Books and Manuscripts' Library at Yale. Eliot scholars will no doubt be delighted, but are the poems really as important as *Adam Bede* or *Middlemarch*?

"If you'd asked me if they were as good," Jenkins replies, "I would have had to say no. But important? Yes, definitely. Many of the poems are like skeleton keys to whole chapters. There is a series of sonnets, for instance, that uses the same themes of brother-sister relationships as in *The Mill on the Floss*. They are very autobiographical."

Whether the company can flourish in these unsettled times remains to be seen. Barry Shaw, editor of trade magazine *The Bookdealer*, was impressed by the *Directory*, but points out that the market for new books is still overloaded.

He says: "There's hopeless overproduction – about 60,000 titles being published each year – and not really much demand for them."

"Small firms do well when they specialize. Where they come unstuck is when they try to sell in lots of different subjects."

However, specialization does not appeal to Jenkins. Skoob, he says, does not want to be associated with one particular type of book.

"In a way we're trying to make the jump into the High Street in one go. It will take two years to make it work. What we really need is a supply of wealthy relatives, who die off and leave us the Georgian porcelain."

• *Skoob Publishing Ltd is based at 15 Sicilian Avenue, London WC1, (071-404 3063).*

CRITIC'S CHOICE: LITERATURE

KEN SMITH: One of our finest poets, who once described the state of British poetry as "flags rolling in cathedrals" and who then set out to stimulate "a generous and real poetry being written in these here islands". He has always been incisive, formally imaginative and topical.

Beeston Library, Foster Avenue, Beeston (0602 255168), tonight, 7.30pm, £2.50 (£1.50).

NEIL BARTLETT, JAMES KELMAN AND RUEL WHITE: An excellent programme tonight in this challenging reading series brings together the performance artist, dramatist and translator, Neil Bartlett (his version of *Beowulf* is currently on at the National Theatre, London) with bright young Scottish writer, James Kelman (*A Disaffection* published last year) and Ruel White, whose first novel *Heroes Through the Day* is launched this week. Battersea Arts Centre, Old Town Hall, Lavender Hill, London SW11 (071-223 2223), tomorrow, 8.15pm, £2 (£2 plus £1 membership).

ADRIAN CLARKE: Clarke is an intriguing experimental writer, as his excellent collection *Shadow Sector* (1989) bears out. His poetry bristles with syntactical and typographical inventions. He performs well, often with dead-pea humour.

The Prince of Cumberland, Albany Street, London NW1 (081-340 8224), tomorrow, 8pm, £2.50, £1.50.

SEAMUS HEANEY: Current Oxford Chair of Poetry and best-selling Irish poet reads in conjunction with the *London Contemporary Poets* (written by Peter Edwards). National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, London WC2 (071-306 0056), Sat, 3pm, free.

HAY-ON-WYE FESTIVAL OF LITERATURE: Last week of this major literary festival. Douglas Adams and Maggie Gee, authors of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy and Grace*, present a talk entitled "Message to the Planet" with Owen Dudley Edwards (Kilver Court Marquee, Fri, 5pm). The Horror Renaissance: James Herbert, Peter James and Clive Barker, three highly

successful practitioners of the fastest-growing literary genre, fantasy and horror, discuss our fascination with concepts which disturb and unnerve (Kilver Court Marquee, Sat, 3.30pm). *Blowfish*: Julian Glover's acclaimed performance of the longest surviving long-poem in the English language (Festival Theatre, Sun, 8pm). Melvyn Bragg and Fay Weldon: Melvyn Bragg reads from his new novel, *A Time to Dance*, and talks about eroticism in literature with Fay Weldon (Festival Theatre, Mon, 6pm). Further information: 0497 821239.

HAN SUYIN: Novelist, renowned scientist and military historian from China, *Flowers and Butterflies*, a new collection of essays which range from perceptive analysis of social changes in Asia to witty reflection on computers and honeymoons, testifies her status as Asia's leading woman of letters. She talks to John Grisham.

ICA: The Mall, London SW1 (071-930 0493), today, 1pm, £2 plus £1 membership.

VOICE BOX: POEMS BY GAY CLIFFORD: Germans present the poetry of her long-time friend Gay Clifford (tonight). Nadine Gordimer, acclaimed South African novelist and short-story writer, author of *A World of Strangers*, *Something Out There* and *The Essential Gesture*, reads from and discusses her work with Arts Council Director of Literature, Dr Alastair Niven (Sun).

The Voice Box, Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800), 7.30pm, £2.50 (£1.50).

SPECIAL EVENT – CENSORSHIP AND THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE WRITER: PEN International, a world association of writers, presents this forum. Featured speakers include Nadine Gordimer, Lady Antonia Fraser, Ronald Harwood and William Shewsbury.

Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London, SE1 (071-928 8800), Sat, all day from 10am, £11 (includes morning coffee). Tickets from PEN International, 071-352 9549.

JAMES BERRY: A fine and distinctive poet who shares with other West Indian

British poets "an intense concern with clarifying the West Indian group memory, re-defining the person, clearing away the fog of history, exposing the people's roots and reality". He has edited two influential anthologies to further this purpose, *Blueprint Traveller* and *News for Babylon*. He will read from his current writing.

The Blue Nose Café, 78 Mountgrov Road, Highgate, London N6 (071-354 3655), Tues, 7.45pm, £3 (£2).

POETRY LIVE '90: The final week of this ground-breaking season. Roy Fisher and Carol Ann Duffy: Fisher is an extremely astute poet with a wonderful knack for tuning unlikely combinations of deceptively easy lines into tough poems. The rapidly rising Carol Ann Duffy completes a very strong programme.

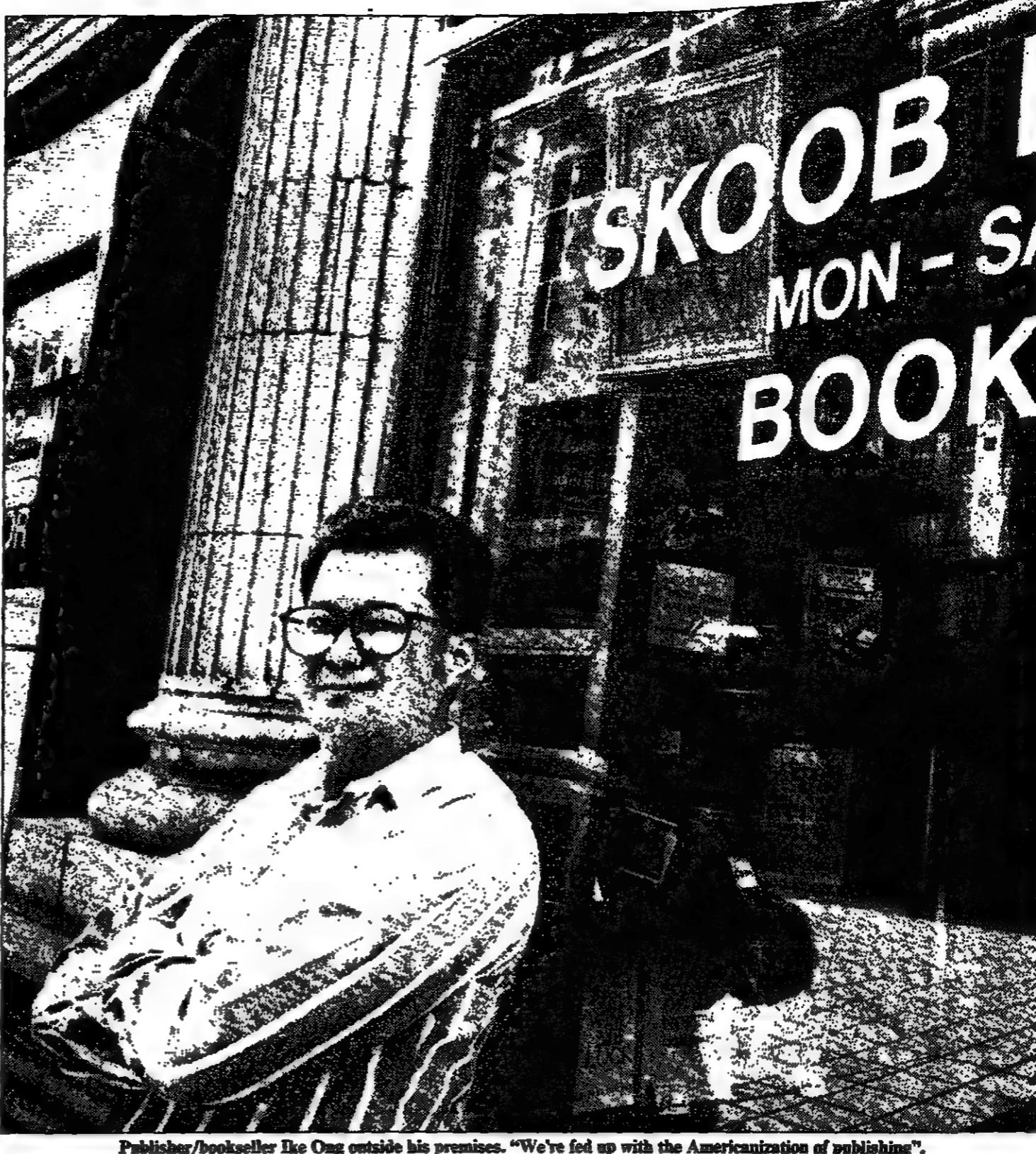
Old Hall Hotel, The Square, Buxton (0268 632665), Sat, 7.30pm, £2.50, £1.50.

FOUR IRISH POETS: One of the foremost Gaelic poets, Michael Davitt, who should read at least some pieces in Gaelic, in company with poet, broadcaster and dramatist, Patrick Galvin, the doyenne of Irish poets, Eileen Ni Chuilleanain (*Acts and Monuments*) and the author of *The Harp and the Men* was not Surrendered, Maedra Woods.

Corner House, Oxford Street, Manchester (061 228 2463), tonight, 8pm, £2.50 and £1.50.

CRIS CHEEK

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Publisher/bookseller Ike Ong outside his premises. "We're fed up with the Americanization of publishing".

TELEVISION

One pair of eyes, and too many tails

THE lone writer, struggling in apparent solitude to recall a distant, lyrical childhood while attended by a latter-day camera crew of several dozen people was, 25 years ago, one of Alan Bennett's earliest television parades, and makers of tele-autobiography still have to live with its promise of pseuderoy. There is also the fear of what the childhood-recaller may discover on his native doorstep. "I am Robert Morley and I have come home at last," said my then-60-year-old father with a television team once, to an astounded Julian Bream who had merely been unwise enough to open the front door of what had been Robert's house in Wiltshire.

Undeterred by such memories, BBC Northern Ireland last night started a new series in which four Irish novelists recall their *Hidden Ground*. William Trevor's was a small seaside town in County Cork. Mitchelstown, famous for martyrs and processed cheese.

But all his fiction is, in a sense, the recollection of the personal, and Trevor's debt to the claustrophobic market towns of his youth

was evident in his every encounter with one-time neighbours. A world of boarding-house blues and lace-curtained mysteries, wonderfully evoked by Trevor's clenched, nostalgic prose, was captured by a programme well within the old and much-missed format of one pair of eyes".

"A man shot himself near here – his life was hell. Shame is the state his daughter lives in." There is a universe of loss in a Trevor house was not about nostalgia itself but that state of childhood curiosity, in which the writer always lives, knowing that what happened then has happened forever.

When you get, as we all too rarely do, a film of autobiography by a real writer, you suddenly realize how far the art of television documentary script-writing has been allowed to slump into the anatomic instant cliché of the newscaster. To see Trevor painstakingly puncting out his words on a vintage portable typewriter, apparently dating from about 1932, was also to understand that the more easily the phrases glide

onto a word processor, the more glibly boring they often prove to be. The other great advantage of Trevor, of course, is the familiarity television has already given to his work: we know the folk in Mitchelstown, and Youghal and Skibbereen.

On BBC 1, *Inside Story* last night told of pest-control operatives, otherwise known as rat-catchers. Several warm winters and our increasing carelessness about waste disposal have led to a 29 per cent rise in the rat population, so that there are now as many of them as there are of us.

What is more, they are getting bigger: in France they have now got them three feet long. They also breed so fast that each one can produce another hundred per year.

Seventeen people died in Britain last year from diseases caused by rats, and in Hackney alone six men go into battle with them every day on behalf of the local council. One Pinteresque lady considered putting concrete down her drains to defeat the rodents; she came to the conclu-

sion that the solution might simply lead to other domestic problems. What we evidently need is a Pied Piper operative, paid for by the poll tax.

Addicts of Gothic horror will have had an enjoyable 50 minutes of the real thing, but when you have seen one sewer rat in close-up you have seen most. Unlike the operatives we met last night, very few rodents seem to die of old age or weight problems, nor are they much inclined to emigrate or improve their social standing. Instead they rampage through plastic bags, become sexually mature at two-and-a-half months, and totally fail to behave according to local by-laws. Those who have to deal with them, whether rodent operatives or householders, are bound together by a cheery resignation to the inevitability of infestation and proliferation.

Any day now, you mark my words, the rats will be getting their own underground cable television network, specializing in movies by Stephen King.

SHERIDAN MORLEY

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CINEMA

Second-hand plot, two careless owners

David Robinson
reviews the latest
films, including
We're No Angels,
The Vanishing and
The Punisher, and
concludes that the
best cinema on offer
this week is an NFT
tribute to the veteran
Nicholas Brothers

The most notable feature of *We're No Angels* (15, Plaza 2) is its script credit: "written by David Mamet, suggested by the movie *We're No Angels* written by Ronald MacDougal, adapted from the musical *Three Angels* written by Sam and Bella Spewak, based on the play *La Cuisine des Anges* written by Albert Hirsch."

What is most remarkable about this extended literary pedigree is that the screenplay has practically nothing in common with any of these forebears, except for the basic notion of escaped convicts who accidentally find themselves committing good deeds. A more appropriate acknowledgement would have been to *Brother Orchid*, in which gangster Edward G. Robinson took refuge in a monastery disguised as a monk. The new film is nothing more than a transatlantic *Nuns on the Run*, set (for no very good reason) in 1935.

Robert de Niro and Sean Penn are prisoners in a tough penitentiary sadistically ruled by the late and regretted Ray McAnally. Unintentionally involved in a break-out, they seek refuge in a monastery on the US-Canadian



Friars' passion? Robert De Niro, disguised as a priest, pursues an uninterested Demi Moore in Neil Jordan and David Mamet's *We're No Angels*

border where – the script's most desperate challenge to probability – they are taken for visiting theological scholars.

It is hard to believe that the unconvincing plot developments that ensue, the naive moralizing and the dull dialogue are by the same David Mamet who (quite apart from his career as playwright and screenwriter) wrote and directed the memorable *House of Games* and *Things Change*.

Nor would it be easy to recognize the work of the director of *Angel*, *Mona Lisa* and *The Company of Wolves*, if it were not for the more recent and less happy memory of Neil Jordan's last essay in comedy, *High Spirits*.

Comedy, it must be admitted, just does not seem to be Jordan's forte. Certainly he seems to give his leading actors very little help. Sean Penn gets by with a one-note performance of wide-eyed idiocy, but Robert De Niro is spectacularly unfunny – mugging desperately and resorting to repetitive mannerisms. Demi Moore plays a woman to whom he is attracted. The look of intense suffering which is De Niro's most frequent expression may, of course, reflect his additional role as executive producer of this unfortunate film.

The best value among this week's releases is George Sluizer's *The Vanishing* (12, Metro, Canons Chelsea, Tottenham Court Road), a Dutch production, though with mainly French dialogue. This is a cool, stylish psychological thriller, with a particularly horrifying twist in the tail.

It confronts two obsessions: that of a young man whose girl-friend disappears while they are on holiday in France; and that of the man who abducted her, for reasons which only become apparent as the film goes on.

Tim Krabbé's script moves from one man to the other, detailing the cat-and-mouse game which will inevitably lead to confrontation. The abductor, played by Bernard Pierre Donnadieu, is a fascinating and chilling

convincing creation: a quiet-spoken chemistry teacher, who leads a model family life while planning his perverse crimes with pedantic precision. Sluizer has a sense of fun, also: even the perfect criminal can encounter unforeseen hazards, like mistaking his daughter's P.E. teacher for a potential victim.

The excuse that it is based on comic strips hardly justifies the excess of sadistic incident in *The Punisher* (18, Cannons Haymarket, Panton Street, Oxford Street). The carnage is non-stop, a holocaust as people are mown down by machine guns impaled by daggers, spears or cross-bows, strangled, kicked, hanged, or

bested to death – all with vivid sound effects.

Dolph Lundgren, with a voice strangely like his mentor, Sylvester Stallone, plays a former cop, run maverick after the killing of his wife and children, and claiming victims by the score in a one-man war against the underworld.

This ludicrous and brutal farce – undoubtedly destined to spawn a succession of sequels – seems to have been filmed mostly in Australia, which explains why the Sydney skyline does service for New York, and some of the supporting actors are clumsily lip-synched. *The Punisher* was directed by Mark Goldblatt, from a script by Sam Yakin.

THE SEA HAWK (Warner, 15): Errol Flynn as the Robin Hood of the seas, preying on the Spanish in the time of Good Queen Bess (Flora Robson).

Exhilarating swashbuckler from the genre's heyday, with ear-tinging music from Erich Wolfgang Korngold. 1940.

SECRETS (MCA, 18): A day in the life of a London couple facing a marital crisis (Jacqueline Bisset, Robert Powell). Wistful stuff, directed in 1971 by Philip Seville; it seemed stale even at the time.

SIESTA (Palace, 18): Incredibly rockin' rock of a flamenco artiste in a dive in Spain. Elena Berenice gives everything she has, but Mary Lambert's direction shows the worst excesses of music videos. Soundtrack features Miles Davis.

SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION IN HUMAN BEINGS (MGM/UA, 18): Ludicrous tale of human fireballs, exuberantly handled by director Tobe Hooper, with Brad Dourif as the unfortunate offspring of parents used as guinea pigs in an atom bomb experiment. 1980.

WORKING GIRL (Palace, 18): Mike Nichols's attractively light-hearted social satire, with Melanie Griffith as the secretary zooming up the Wall Street ladder. 1988.

HISTOIRES EXTRAORDINAIRES (Casta, 18): Three Poe stories, unevenly filmed in 1967 by Roger Vadim, Louis Malle and Federico Fellini, whose flamboyant episode with Terence Stamp easily dominates the proceedings.

HOW TO MURDER YOUR WIFE (Warner, PG): George Axelrod's wild comedy about a cartoonist (Jack Lemmon, bubbling over) whose own life turns into a comic-strip. Frenziedly dated, but still engrossing. 1965.

THE MISSOURI BREAKS (Warner, 15): Arthur Penn's rewardingly strange Western, stamped with the idiosyncrasies of writer Thomas McGuire and two stars (Marlon Brando, Jack Nicholson) allowed to go way over the top. 1976.

GOFF BROWN



Elegant: The Nicholas Brothers in *Down Argentine Way*, showing at the NFT on June 4

Parental guidance is for censors, not children

James Bone on a dispute over the United States film rating system

Audiences in Europe will see the same version of David Lynch's *Wild at Heart* as the jury at the Cannes Film Festival which decided to award it this year's Palme d'Or. But to ensure mainstream distribution in his homeland, the American director will have to cut out some of the steamier sections, or it will be designated with an X certificate.

That would put Lynch, director of *Eraserhead* and *Blue Velvet* on a par with the makers of hard-core pornography. In recent months, American censors have slapped X-certificates on Peter Greenaway's *The Cook, The Thief, His Wife and Her Lover*, Pedro Almodóvar's *Tie Me Up! Tie Me Down!* and John McNaughton's *Henry: Portrait of a Serial Killer*. Martin

Scorsese's new *Good Fellas* is also rumoured to face an X-rating.

All are victims of a crisis in the American ratings system, in which a secret panel classifies films as PG (parental guidance suggested), PG13 (parental discretion advised for under-13s), R (under-17s not admitted without parent or guardian) or X. With the R certificate virtually ignored, the censors have begun using the X-certificate to keep minors out of the cinema for more violent or erotic offerings.

"Under-17s are going in all the time," Lynch said. "What happens, though, is that one goes home and has a nightmare and the parents are very upset. They then

call the MPAA [Motion Picture Association of America], who don't say 'Why did you let your child go?' They say, 'Next time a film like that comes here, we're not going to allow it.' The studios allow it because everyone who goes in brings another six bucks."

Although both *Midnight Cowboy* and *Last Tango in Paris* thrived despite being rated X, the certificate has since been devoured by widespread use by pornographers. As a result, many newspapers will no longer accept advertisements for X-rated films, and many cinemas will not show them. That makes mainstream distribution of an X-rated film

extremely difficult. Lynch himself was contractually committed to provide the producers of *Wild at Heart* with an R-rated film, and so has no choice but to make the alterations.

But *The Cook, The Thief, His Wife and Her Lover*, *Tie Me Up! Tie Me Down!* and *Henry: Portrait of a Serial Killer* were all released unrated, after being branded X. That effectively limits their distribution to "art houses".

Miramax, which made both Greenaway and Almodóvar's films, has sued the MPAA to rescind the X-rating on *Tie Me Up! Tie Me Down!*. Majack Productions has filed a similar suit

to change the classification of its *Henry: Portrait of a Serial Killer*.

William Kunstler, the veteran civil-rights lawyer who is representing Miramax, is presenting the case for a new certificate, somewhere between R and X. The new rating, Kunstler says, "would designate a picture with strong sexual components, but one in which sex is not used for sex's sake". Jack Matthews, film editor of the *Los Angeles Times*, has proposed that such a certificate be A – for "Adults Only".

Jack Valenti, the MPAA president, who created the ratings system in 1968, is unyielding. "In 22 years, the ratings system has survived criticism," he says. "And it will survive future legal challenges as it has in the past."

Salutary lesson from Turkey

David Robinson on Turkish cinema and its struggle against video competition

foreign festivals and consequent media coverage at home. European film imports have even less chance.

The result has been a 50 per cent drop in national production, and a drastic reduction of European film imports. Even though Turkish films are made very cheaply – the average budget is around \$100,000 – producers have a hard fight to recoup costs from television and video sales alone.

The government has stepped in with 50 per cent subsidies for up to 30 films per year, the favoured projects to be selected by an independent selection committee. In these difficulties the annual Istanbul Film Festival takes on a political significance unusual for this kind of cultural event.

The publicity attached to the national competition and prizes may well guarantee exhibition at least for a few Turkish films. The government has also agreed to buy for television a proportion of the foreign films shown, thus maintaining some kind of foothold for European films.

The repertory of Turkish cinema has changed radically, as much in response to social changes as to falling box-office returns. A few years ago the staples were rural comedies and Wild West-style adventure dramas. Now intimate sentimental dramas of bourgeois and professional life have taken over.

The most interesting films tend to be those which take advantage of recent relaxations in censorship to look back over successive eras of political oppression. One of these, Yusuf Kursen's *Blackout Nights*, describing the adventures of a poet on the run from the secret police in the final days of the Second World War, won the Istanbul Festival prize as best Turkish film of the year.

Apart from its interest as a showcase of national production, the festival attracts an impressive international turnout. Its selection criteria are original: entries must in some way relate to creation in other arts.

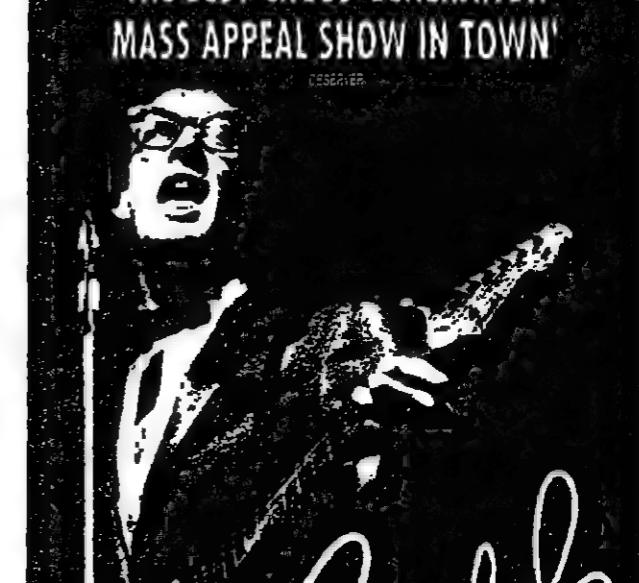
This year's prize-winner – one which is certain to turn up at British festivals – was *Flame of Pomegranates in the Cane*, an outstanding debut by a young Iranian director, Sa'ied Ebrahimifar. It evokes the atmosphere and observes the minutiae of everyday Islamic life, fascinating the spectator with breathtaking images.

Tomorrow: Two views of the Venice Biennale, from John Russell Taylor and Adrian Dannatt. Plus David Toop on the musicians behind the rock stars on stage

"THERE'S A PARTY GOING ON IN SW1

IT'S HARD NOT TO FATHOM THE APPEAL FOR A START, IT MUST BE

THE BEST CROSS-GENERATION MASS APPEAL SHOW IN TOWN!



The BUDDY HOLLY Story

ALBERT R. MELLETT

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PRODUCED BY

RONALD LEE

DIRECT

Method without danger

THEATRE

Burn This

Hampstead

IT IS quite an accomplishment for a tiny theatre two miles north of Shaftesbury Avenue, even for one with Hampstead's reputation, somehow to persuade John Malkovich, as a fashionable actor as any in America, to recreate a role he originally played on Broadway in 1987. But there, alas, applause must stop.

Lauren Wilson's play has not grown with time, and on last night's evidence, Malkovich's performance has become fastidiously shrivelled.

At root, *Burn This* is a sentimental variation on the Beauty and the Beast myth, itself not the most touch-minded of fairy-tales. Anna, a dancer, has lost the homo-sexual male partner who inspired her best work. As Juliet Stevenson plays her, all woebegone and forlorn, her professional future seems as bleak as her personal one. The heterosexual in her life, a rich scriptwriter unromantically called Burton, clearly does not fire either her heart or her feet.

At this point Malkovich makes his aggressive entrance, hammering down her apartment door, delivering a long, irrelevant tirade against New York's parking problems, and revealing himself as the ex-partner's macho brother and lookalike: all before dawn has broken over the Lower East Side. This is his and the play's most exhilarating moment: a pity, since nine-tenths of Robert Ackerman's production is to come.

One problem is the play's erotic geography. Beauty must fall for



Shrivelled performance: John Malkovich as Pale and Juliet Stevenson as Anna in *Burn This*

the Beast, who must unwillingly display a sensitivity belying his verbal violence. Indeed, the Beast must push Beauty to awesome new creative heights. While the other characters are still blundering about without compasses, they must somehow struggle to their true emotional destinations.

It is hard to make such a story plausible, doubly so when Wilson is so discursive a writer. Padding is the second main problem. Much of the banter and reminiscence is amusing in itself, but tends to check the play's visceral thrust.

One of the four main characters, a gay flatmate amiably played by

Lou Liberatore, is too obviously there for the wry, self-deprecating humour he gratuitously provides.

And Malkovich? Occasionally he displays one of his primary strengths, which is for playing a human grenade with the pin half out. But generally his performance is much less dangerous, less explosive than in New York. True, he is on a much more cramped stage. Too many of those punches in the air and lashes of the foot, and he might seem overblown, histrionic.

Yet too much low droning, hoarse mumbling, and quiet burbling is scarcely better. It, too,

comes to seem mannered, actorish, especially when it is combined with deliberate little snorts and sniffs and scratchings of the nose. We see more of the character's emotional exhaustion than we did on Broadway, but less of something more essential, his frustration, resentment and suppressed anger. Compare Malkovich to Stevenson, so direct and robust despite some lack of sexual energy, and the real trouble is evident.

This is the Method become monotonous — too many trees, not enough good, broad wood.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Much Ado About Nothing

Open Air, Regent's Park

KING Charles I renamed his copy of this play *Beatrice and Benedick*, but it is the director's responsibility to make sure we are not so intrigued by the sparing lovers that we discount the "cauch ado".

In Lindsay Posner's straightforward production, opening the 1990 season, the balance between the wrongs and the trouble-makers is established, but where the two moods inter-penetrate and comedy veers into high drama at Hero's supposed death, the audience is not prepared.

For this reason, Beatrice's demand "Kill Claudio!" is met with merry laughter. Nervous laughter is understandable, but not the assumption that the play has gone back to telling jokes.

In the scene that follows, Posner also misjudges the tone by bringing on what we take to be Hero's funeral procession with bearers

singing a "Miserere", and turning it into a cod-operative intro to antics with Dogberry's Keystone Cops. The comedy of this play is shot through with serious notes and sadness. And though the temptation may be to pump up the laughter, it is one that should be resisted.

In most other respects, and accepting a stiff Hero by Tilly Blackwood, this is a charming production.

Julian McGowan's set is unattractive, a plywood arcade of giddy perspective, trying to fool us it is a conservatory. It cuts off the rocks and paths to the rear of the stage and restricts the action to a semi-circle of green cloth. The arcade does eventually open to become the east window of a church, but this is not a design that exploits the natural setting.

The costumes are turn-of-the-century, with the men in cavalry uniforms or Norfolk jackets and the women resembling Shaw's heroines.

Carl Johnson's husky-voiced Benedick has something of the bounce of an H.G. Wells hero,

Kipps or an upper middle-class Mr Polly, who remembers the courtesy due to a lady by allowing the last word of a combat to Susan Tracy's Beatrice — a charmer with a rough smile.

The production's senior characters are particularly well done. Patrick O'Connell's Leonato and John Hart Dyke as his gallant brother manage the difficult bridge between outrage at the insult to Hero and their comically incompetent attempt to avenge it. Des McAleer's Don John, too, conveys the proper sourness of aspect with dapper elegance.

Pip Donaghy as Don Pedro and Martin Clunes as a brainless Claudio work attractively with O'Connell in the guilting scene, where Johnson's Benedick hides behind a headless, amorous garden statue, covering its parts with his hands when the plotter's talk embarrasses him.

This production is not, as I have indicated, without faults, but it is agreeable enough and on a balmy May evening the time passes pleasantly.

JEREMY KINGSTON

the cheerful rhythm of a gigue. Ashkenazy prefaced the concerto with an effective theatrical element in the overture to Weber's *Euryanthe*, though in broadening his briskly-act opening tempo to let the final song of the strings flow forth, he somewhat detracted from the latter effect of the eerie interlude for divided violin that should send romantic shivers down susceptible spines, intended as it was to depict the ghost from a tomb.

There was nothing ghostly about Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony in its fierce and often hard-shelled performance, which the conductor began by getting the horns to hurl out the doom-laden opening fanfare, with as much brazen attack as the trumpets that followed them.

NOEL GOODWIN

The spiky, explosive course of this first movement had much to tell about Tchaikovsky's concern with fate, and especially about his wealth of symphonic counter-melody.

There was little or nothing of the mocking mood, signified by the composer's "*in modo di canzona*" marking, in the rigid rhythm and square phrasing applied to the second movement; but to follow this the massed strings, plucked like balalaikas, sustained their *pizzicato ostinato* with lively spirit as well as speed; and the episode of drunken revelry was done with considerable jollity. Ashkenazy lastly gave a reminder of his own heritage through the fierce Russian character of a virtuoso finale.

NOEL GOODWIN

conducting set the concerto going in a very moderate tempo, as if to give the soloist time to make up his mind as he went along, how to hold the balance between communicating serious thought and decorating the musical discussion in an almost feminine way. Perhaps the first-movement cadenza, which I suppose was his own, supplied a kind of resolution.

The slow movement was distinguished by the smooth and plaintive contributions of the orchestra, introducing each of the episodes that separate the piano's recurring refrain, but it was the variations of the finale that brought the most eloquent keyboard playing, as much in the varied treatment of repeated sections as in the deeper chromatic shadows that can darken even

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BUSINESS

THURSDAY MAY 31 1990

Glaxo's R&D 'at record level'

GLAXO, the drugs group, said that its research and development programme had made significant progress during the last 12 months, with three marketing approvals received and five product licence applications made.

Dr Richard Sykes, the R&D director, told analysts and institutional investors: "The level of (R&D) activity is unprecedented for us and, I believe, any pharmaceutical company." But he gave no figures.

An important compound had entered a development programme for the treatment of peptic ulcers and another for general anxiety.

Glaxo has seven compounds in nine full development projects and 17 in exploratory development. Analysts welcomed the R&D update.

Mr Ian Smith of Shearson Lehman Hutton said: "It confirms Glaxo as one of the world's leading drug companies."

Leucadia offer for Molins fails

Leucadia has lapsed its 275p-a-share cash offer for Molins after securing only 45.47 per cent acceptance when its offer closed - but it remains determined to fight on.

Molins says it would agree to a meeting with Leucadia if the agenda was "sensible and constructive." But it would resist attempts to have three non-executive directors of Molins removed and replaced by five Leucadia nominees. Molins' shares slipped by 5p to 270p.

Any attempt by Leucadia to remove Molins' directors through an extraordinary meeting would also be resisted.

Dunhill jumps

Dunhill Holdings made pre-tax profits of £60.6 million (£45.5 million) in the year ended March 31 on a turnover up from £194.4 million to £240.2 million. A final dividend of 3.5p (2.5p), payable on July 19, makes 5.5p (3.75p). *Tempus*, page 23

THE POUND

US dollar
1.6940 (+0.0010)
W German mark
2.8442 (+0.0102)
Exchange index
89.4 (+0.5)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1857.4 (+34.1)
FT-SE 100
2346.2 (+50.6)
New York Dow Jones
2884.73 (+14.23)
Closing Prices ... Page 29

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 15%
3-month Interbank: 15%-15.16%
3-month eligible bills: 14%-14.25%
US: Prime Rate 10%
Federal Funds 8.16%
3-month Treasury Bills 7.78-7.77%
30-year bonds 101%-101.1%

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£ 1.6940 \$ 1.5925
£ DM 8442 \$ DM 1.6812
£ Swf 2,4004 \$ Swf 1.4212
£ Frf 5905 \$ Frf 5.6715
£ Yen 103.3 \$ Yen 157.30
Index 99.4 \$ Index 67.3
ECU 0.720115 \$ 0.701688
£ ECU 1.389667 \$ 1.261745

GOLD

London Fixing
AM 5355.70 pm 5366.40
close 5355.25-5366.75 (2215.75-
2162.5)
New York
Comex \$366.50-367.00

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (JUL) \$16.90 bbl (\$16.45)
* Denotes latest trading price

TOURIST RATES

Australia \$ 2.35 \$ 1.95
Austria Sch 2055 19.65
Belgium Fr 61.70 57.70
Canada \$ 2.084 1.974
Denmark Kr 11.36 10.82
France Fr 10.93 9.43
Germany DM 2.973 2.795
Greece Dr 265.50 269.50
Hong Kong \$ 13.85 12.98
Ireland P 1.117 1.045
Italy L 2.055 1.925
Japan Yen 270.75 264.75
Netherlands Gld 3.325 3.165
Norway Kr 11.42 10.79
Sweden Kr 261.25 249.50
Switzerland Fr 5.10 5.10
Spain Pta 186 172
Sweden Kr 10.75 10.15
Switzerland Fr 2.525 2.345
United States \$ 4.280 4.185
USA \$ 1.765 1.685
Yugoslavia Dinar 23.75 17.75

Market surge adds £9bn to share value

By OUR CITY STAFF

SHARE prices soared on the back of a record-breaking Wall Street and a tough speech from Mr John Major, the Chancellor.

Almost £9 billion was added to the value of companies trading on the London stock market with the FT-SE 100 index jumping 50.6 points to 2,346.2, an increase of 2.2 per cent. The rise came on top of a 30-point jump on Tuesday.

Some 548 million shares changed hands, compared with 328 million on Tuesday. Dealers in London were encouraged by New York's rise of almost 50 points on Tuesday night to a new high and signs that the Tokyo market is recovering. London was given a further boost when the Dow Jones index opened 10.91 points higher yesterday.

The market was also helped by comments made by Mr Major to the annual ministerial meeting of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris.

He told the OECD meeting that the gap between inflation in Britain and that of other nations is far narrower than the statistics imply, because unlike other countries Britain's retail price index includes mortgage interest pay-

ments and it is also distorted by the poll tax.

He said that Britain's underlying rate of inflation was about 6.4 per cent compared with an average through all EC states of about 5.4 per cent.

But he insisted that Britain's inflation is still too high and that a further rise in British interest rates cannot be ruled out if it is needed.

"When there is scope for interest rate reductions, their pace will be determined by our determination to ensure not just that inflation comes down ... but also that it stays down," he said.

"In the meantime, if I judge it necessary, a further rise in interest rates in the UK cannot be ruled out."

The Chancellor indicated that inflation remains the only real barrier to Britain's entry to the European exchange rate mechanism (ERM).

The Prime Minister, Mrs Thatcher, has consistently said Britain will join the ERM of the European Monetary System "when the time is ripe" and last June spelt out conditions for entry at a summit of EC leaders in Madrid.

Restrictions on the movement of foreign exchange in Italy and France have since been removed, satisfying one

of the "Madrid terms" imposed by Mrs Thatcher.

But another important condition that Britain's inflation rate comes down to nearer the EC average, has still to be met.

Speaking to a press conference at the OECD meeting, Mr Major announced that the pound will join the ERM when Britain's underlying inflation "is on a downward trend and a little closer" to the European average.

The Chancellor still refused to set a date on entry. "There are a whole series of intangibles in the decision."

He said: "It is potentially a turbulent matter for a currency the size of sterling to go into the ERM, and we believe it is not only in the interests of sterling but of the mechanism to go in at the right time and on the right terms."

Sterling had been riding high yesterday morning as there was speculation that Mr Major was about to announce a policy shift in Paris. Sterling fell back after it became clear that he had no intention of making an EMS statement.

Sterling rose to \$1.7060

from \$1.6950 overnight at one stage but finished a shade down at \$1.6940, and at 89.4 on the trade-weighted index.

Against the German mark, it hit DM2.8587 from DM2.8340 at the previous close before falling back to DM2.8442.

Mr Major denied that the pound's recent strength jeopardizes ERM membership. "Sterling is half of 1 per cent below where it was in October so I frankly do not think it has reached an unsustainable value," he said.

NIESR expects inflation will fall to 5% next year

By RODNEY LORD, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE National Institute of Economic and Social Research, which has crossed swords with the Government over economic policy in the past, has forecast a sharp improvement in the economy next year.

The institute, in its latest *Review*, expects inflation to fall to below 5 per cent by the final quarter of next year and growth in the economy to pick up to 2.7 per cent.

The balance of payments deficit is now expected to be about the £15 billion level forecast by the Treasury in the Budget rather than £15.5 billion forecast by the institute in February. But the institute still expects it to fall to 9.9 million next year. Unemployment may rise from 1.7 million to 1.8 million.

This attractive prospect depends heavily on the assumption that Britain joins the ex-

change rate mechanism of the European Monetary System in the first half of next year. On that basis, bank base rates are expected to fall steeply to 14 per cent by the first quarter and 11 per cent by the end of the year, bringing down mortgage rates and retail price inflation in their wake.

In the shorter term, the outlook has deteriorated. Inflation will peak at 9%-10 per cent and will still be 8.8 per cent in the final quarter of this year. Growth in the non-oil economy this year will be only 0.8 per cent. The underlying level of inflation as measured by the gross domestic product deflator will rise from 6.3 per cent this year to 6.9 per cent next.

The institute cautions that the fall in interest rates as a result of ERM membership may have to be offset by tighter fiscal policy. But it

believes that Britain should not join at too ambitious an exchange rate. The real exchange rate is currently too high for balance of payments equilibrium and the pound should not be encouraged to rise before entry. On the contrary, the Government is likely to need to realign the currency downwards before arriving at a final exchange rate for monetary union.

Staying outside a European monetary union would threaten both the financial leadership of the City and Britain's attractiveness as a place for inward direct investment.

Foreign financial institutions

would find it troublesome to locate where local costs were not predictable in terms of Ecu, and US or Japanese firms would be deterred from choosing Britain as a European location by exchange rate uncertainties.

Interest rates hit Speyhawk

By OUR CITY STAFF

SPEYHAWK, the property group, has reported lower interim profits from sharply higher turnover in "difficult" market conditions.

Pre-tax profits fell to £6.1 million in the six months to March 31, from £10.1 million previously. Turnover soared from £45.6 million to £83.3 million.

The company said margins were reduced by combination of higher interest rates,

slower sales and reduced prices. The interim dividend is being maintained at 3.5p.

High interest rates had slowed tenant demand, especially in secondary locations. The group's primary objective has been to complete work in progress on time and on budget and to find tenants for its properties.

The prime nature of the portfolio has helped achieve substantial success, while site acquisition and development

staff have been reduced. Financing of projects is secured against the development itself with limited recourse, the company's interim statement tells shareholders.

The group also has a £120 million revolving credit facility, which provides adequate resources for the foreseeable future. The company was operating comfortably within the limits of its financing and funding arrangements.

For 22.6p out of fully diluted earnings up 37 per cent to 54.3p per share. Mr Peter Stormont Darling, the chairman, said this reflected good investment performance.

Tempus, page 23

ALISTAIR GRANT

Bowater seeking £140m in rights

By OUR CITY STAFF

BOWATER Industries, the printing and packaging to building materials group, is seeking £140 million from its shareholders to finance overseas acquisitions.

The cash will be raised via a fully underwritten one-for-four rights issue at 425p a share.

Explaining the move, Mr Norman Ireland, the Bowater chairman, said he believed there were "opportunities to make further acquisitions at sensible prices in the UK, Continental Europe and North America." The company was continually reviewing potential acquisitions.

Mr David Lyon, the chief executive of Bowater, said later that the group had no particular acquisition in mind, but that it was sensible to have the money "in our hip pocket" for when it might be needed.

Mr Lyon added that the next deal was more likely to be in the field of coatings and laminates, the smallest of the group's four core activities, representing just 12 per cent of group sales.

The City expects Bowater to pounce in the US, where successful UK bidders like BTR, Hanson and Tomkins traditionally use cash. Bowater, which in March reported pre-tax profits of £100.4 million for calendar 1989, against £76.7 million the year before, said it was too early to make a profit forecast for the current year, but the fund-raising news was sweetened by a promise to lift the dividend from last year's 18.5p a share to not less than 21p.

The new cash will slash group gearing to around 26 per cent after allowing for the current preference share buy-back scheme. It was 77 per cent at the end of 1989 and stood at 131 per cent before last year's sale of Crossley Builders Merchants.

Mr Mike Murphy, Warburg Securities analyst, thinks Bowater could be looking for a proprietary products business in the US. "I would expect a deal before the end of the year," he said. Institutional investors would not want the group sitting on the cash for too long.

Warburg is looking for profits of £125 million this year, and earnings per share of 57.8p.

Bowater shares, marked sharply lower to 49.7p initially, recovered smartly once the attractiveness of the terms had been digested, to close unchanged at 51.4p.

Tempus, page 23



Reward for investors as Siebe hits £181m

By GRAHAM SEARLENT
FINANCIAL EDITOR

SIEBE, the manufacturer of appliance and industrial controls, is raising its final dividend by a quarter to 10p, leaving the total 32 per cent up to 15p (Jeremy Andrews writes). The move is to reward shareholders who were "extremely supportive" during a period when the company was expanding rapidly, according to Mr Barrie Stephens, the chief executive.

The distribution to shareholders is to rise faster than either profits, which were 19 per cent up at £181 million in the year to March, or earnings

per share, up 11 per cent at 53p. Turnover increased by 13 per cent to £1.37 billion.

Siebe is keen to build up its presence in Eastern Europe, where, Mr Stephens said, there are "big opportunities but little money." It has started production at a wholly-owned factory employing 70 making automotive components in Gdansk, Poland, and it is negotiating to buy an industrial controls business in East Germany.

The shares rose 14p to 48.9p.

Tempus, page 23

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SmithKline shares rise on £210m sale of cosmetics firms

By STEPHEN LEATHER

THE SmithKline Beecham pharmaceuticals group is selling its Margaret Astor and Lancaster cosmetics businesses to Joh. A. Benckiser, of Germany, for £210 million.

The price, to be paid in cash, is subject to adjustment for a post-completion audit, but at least £176 million will be received when the deal is completed next month. SmithKline Beecham 'A' shares rose 21p to 539p.

The deal is the latest in a series of asset disposals which SB hopes will bring its debt mountain, the result of the merger of America's SmithKline Beckman and Britain's Beecham last July, down to about £1 billion by the year-end. The international healthcare group started the year with debts of £1.75 billion.

SB has so far raised £701 million from selling assets, of which £629 million is in cash.

In December, Benckiser paid £66 million for SB's household products business in the US and Canada.

Last month, SB sold its cosmetics business Yardley/Lentheric, including Yardley cosmetics, Lentheric perfumes and Morny soaps, to Old Bond Street Corporation, of the US, for £110 million. Wasserstein Perella Management Partners, an affiliate of the US buyout specialist, owns 88.5 per cent of the business. SB received £70 million in

cash for Yardley/Lentheric and £40 million in subordinated loan notes of a British subsidiary of Old Bond Street. The loan notes are redeemable in 1998 and bear fixed interest of 9 per cent a year, payable after three years.

Also last month, SB completed the sale of its Marmite, Ambrosia and Bovril brands to CPC International, the US foods group, for £157 million.

CPC, whose \$5.1 billion sales include Helman's mayonnaise, Mazola Corn Oil and Knorr Soups, acquired the worldwide rights to the brands, with sales of £89 million last year, plus factories in Devon and at Burton-on-Trent employing about 700.

The group has also sold 32 US drug brands and cosmetic products for £32 million, and has raised \$300 million from an issue of auction-rate preference shares.

Earlier this month Mr Henry Wendt, the chairman, announced first-quarter pre-tax profits down from £235 million to £219 million, reflecting a £51 million rise in interest charges arising from the merger.

On a *pro forma* basis, pre-tax profits rose 21 per cent, though about a third of the increases in sales and trading profit arose from exchange-rate movements.

The latest business being sold include Lancaster skincare products, Margaret Astor cosmetics, Monteil skincare cosmetics, Parera fragrances and a number of designer brands under licence agreements. Trading profits amounted to £24 million last year on sales of £264 million, with net assets of £85 million. The deal is subject to West German regulatory approval.

Factories at Michelstadt, West Germany, in Monaco, at Chartres, France, and in Barcelona, Spain, are included in the sale. The businesses employ 3,800 people.

Dr Peter Harf, chairman of Benckiser, said: "The acquisition of Astor/Lancaster represents another major step in Benckiser's restructuring of its business. Since 1983, the company has acquired eight consumer products businesses in 10 countries for an aggregate consideration of more than £600 million while shedding non-core chemical operations for aggregate proceeds of nearly £110 million."

SB has still to find a buyer for its Montana fragrances unit and its Yardley/Lentheric operation in South Africa.

The company had originally hoped to sell its entire cosmetics business for about £600 million, but figures were revised downwards when the operations proved more difficult to sell than had been expected.

Classroom role for disgraced Milken

From JOHN DURIE
IN NEW YORK

MICHAEL Milken is not wasting his time as he awaits an expected five-year jail term for admitted fraud offences when he is sentenced in New York on October 1.

It was disclosed yesterday that Mr Milken has been teaching mathematics at a school in the Harlem district of New York.

Mr Milken's spokesman, Mr Ken Lerer, said that the former junk bond king's philanthropy dated from the early 1970s and involved, among other things, the Milken Family Foundation.

However, some of the school's teachers, who declined to be identified, were not impressed. One said: "I think it's morally outrageous. He is a notorious white-collar criminal and shouldn't be treated as a celebrity and allowed to influence kids."

The school was a recipient last year of a \$50,000 grant from the Milken foundation.

Mr Steve Kaminsky, its principal, said: "I'm not going to be a hypocrite and say it's okay to take Mr Milken's money and not allow the gentleman into the building."

Mr Milken, who once claimed to give US financial markets lessons on the untapped value of companies, spent a day last week giving 30 children, aged 10 and 11, maths lessons.

Last month Mr Milken admitted six charges of securities fraud.

Thames sounds warning



Sir Ian Trehowian: 'Number of improvements to the Broadcasting Bill are needed'

THAMES Television has given a warning that a downturn in advertising revenue could have a "substantial adverse effect" on interim pre-tax profits to end June, Colin Campbell writes.

Unless there is a marked improvement in conditions, results for the full year "may fall below market expectations." The shares fell 33p to 513p.

He said dependence on advertising revenue was expected to fall further and that

meeting that Thames Television would also suffer from new arrangements for Exchequer levy and from the short-term impact of the group's US acquisition.

He said a number of improvements were still needed in the Broadcasting Bill and gave a warning that competition is likely to be fiercer.

He said dependence on advertising revenue was expected to fall further and that

Sir Ian Trehowian, the chairman, told the annual

MMC to investigate two more bus deals

By DEREK HARRIS
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

TWO more bus companies among the many set up in the wake of deregulation in the industry are to be investigated by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC) after acquisitions that have cut competition.

For one, Stagecoach Holdings, of Perth, is the second MMC inquiry that it faces after growing quickly through acquisitions throughout Britain. It has become one of the largest bus operators in the country, along with Badgerline and Drawlane, since the privatization break-up of the National Bus Company.

The investigations bring to five the studies of bus companies recommended by Sir Gordon Borrie, director-general of Fair Trading, on the grounds that in a particular area an acquisition has restricted or eliminated competition.

They are among the smallest acquisitions referred to the MMC, but in each case, Sir Gordon's recommendation has been taken up by Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Trade Secretary.

One new reference concerns Stagecoach's acquisition of Formia, with services in east and west Sussex and part of Kent. The other involves the takeover by Cheltenham-based Western Travel, another big operator of G&G Coaches (Leamington), which has bus services in Warwickshire and the West Midlands.

Both takeovers appear to have largely eliminated competition in a part of the operational areas.

The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) has also noted a tendency since the National Bus break-up, under legislation of 1987, for the various companies not to trespass on each other's territory. What worries the OFT is that fares may rise and that local authorities may find a lack of competitive tenders for contract routes that they subsidize.

Western Travel's acquisition is thought to have given it about two-thirds of the contract business throughout Warwickshire, and to have raised its share of the non-subsidized market from two-thirds to three-quarters. Stagecoach's acquisition of a Portsmouth bus operation is already being investigated by the MMC.

Eurobank 'set to open by start of 1991'

THE head of the new European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) said he hopes the agency will be operating by the start of next year.

M Jacques Attali, President Francois Mitterrand's chief economic adviser, said recruitment of staff would start in the summer.

Ministers and officials from 40 countries and two European institutions have signed the bank's charter but the agency will not exist formally until the statutes have been ratified by at least 28 of the national parliaments. This is likely by early next year.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

MMC clears Rank over advertising monopoly

RANK Screen Advertising (RSA), part of the Rank Organisation, has 77 per cent of the cinema advertising services market but the monopoly does not operate against the public interest, the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC) has found.

The MMC was asked to look at the industry following a complaint of unfair competition made by Pearl & Dean, RSA's competitor in cinema advertising services, with 23 per cent of the market. The MMC found RSA's profitability had been high in 1988 and 1989 but that its ability to maintain that level was a matter of "considerable uncertainty." Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Trade Secretary, has agreed the MMC findings, which have also been accepted by Sir Gordon Borrie, director-general of Fair Trading, who ordered the investigation.

New chief for GrandMet arm

GRAND Metropolitan has named Mr Rob Hawthorne as the president and chief executive officer of its Alpo Petfoods subsidiary in the United States. Mr Hawthorne succeeds Mr Frank Krum, who will become a special adviser to the chairman on trade and industry relations for Grand Metropolitan's food companies in the United States.

BHH dividend static

BHH Group, the property company, lifted pre-tax profits from £7.32 million to £7.41 million in 1989. The final dividend is reduced to 2p (2.75p), making an unchanged 4.0p. Earnings per share fell from 13.48p to 3.76p with the reduction mainly due to a dilution in earnings following the issue of shares after the £42 million acquisition of the Slough Estates portfolio in March 1989. There is an extraordinary credit of £754,000, mainly relating to the gain on the sale of an investment interest payments fell from £3.75 million to £3.16 million.

Mr David Fitzgerald, the executive chairman, said adverse conditions have continued into 1990 and, with no foreseeable drop in interest rates in the short-term, no immediate increase can be expected in the group's activities.

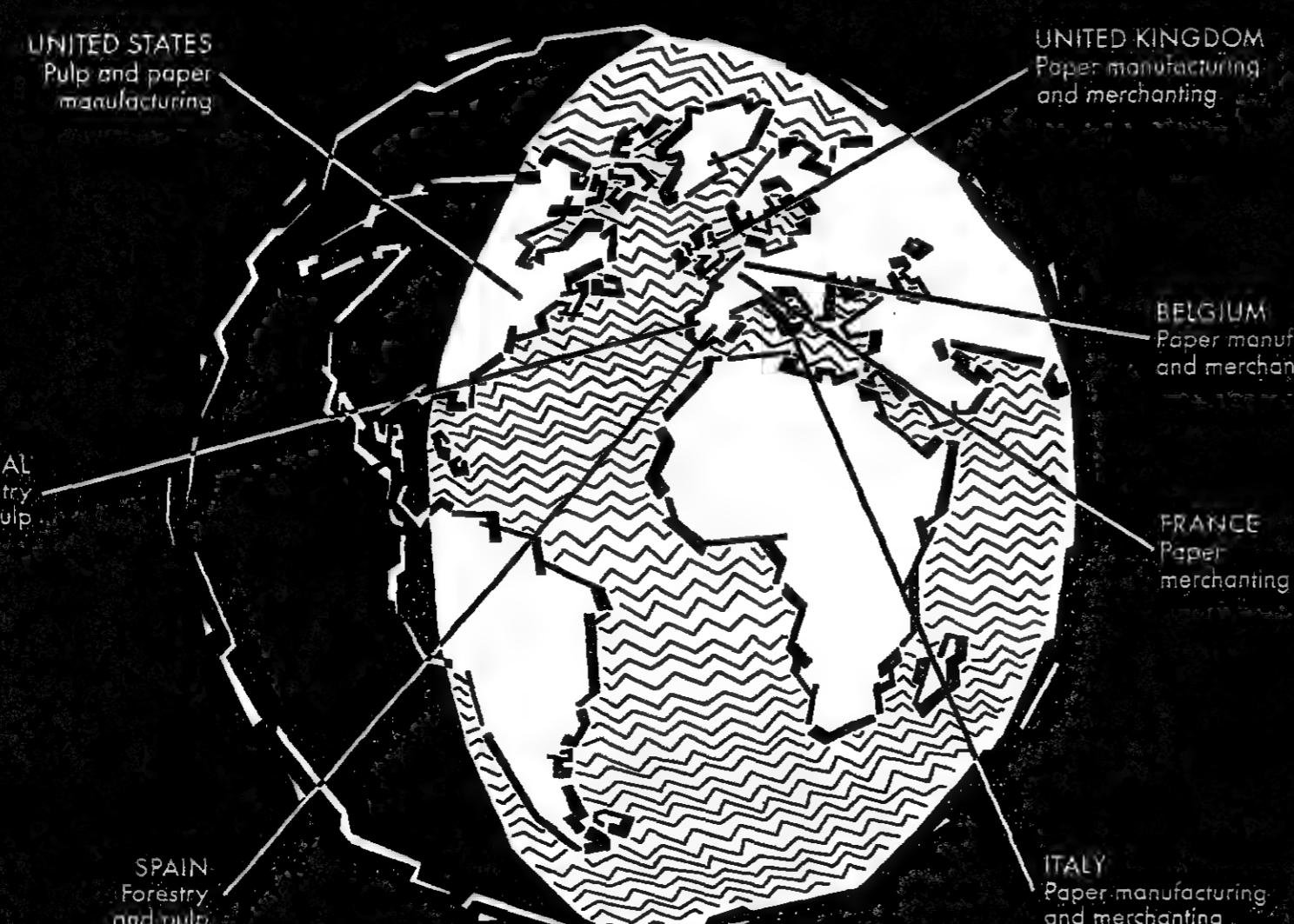
£100m storm claims at Pru

PRUDENTIAL, Britain's largest insurance company, has received claims for £100 million relating to storms in Europe this year, according to Lord Hunt, the outgoing chairman. The estimate, given at the annual meeting, is slightly higher than the £90 million indicated at the time of the results in March. The market took the news calmly and the shares rose 8p to 222p.

Paribas deal expected

COMPAGNIE Financière de Paribas is expected to announce an accord with its failed bid target Compagnie de Navigation Mixte to cut its stake in Mixte to less than 30 per cent, sources close to the negotiations said. The French bank holds 40 per cent of Mixte after an inconclusive bid last year. The accord should also call for Mixte to reduce its 12 per cent holding in Paribas to less than 10 per cent, the sources said.

At Paribas' annual meeting M Michel Francois-Poncer, the bank's president, said an announcement on the framework of an accord reached between Paribas and Mixte could be made very quickly. The accord follows weeks of talks between the two rivals.



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OECD annual ministerial meeting opens in Paris

Call to cut world farming subsidies

From NEIL BENNETT IN PARIS

AN URGENT call for a reduction in world agricultural subsidies has come from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) at the start of an annual ministerial meeting in Paris.

An OECD report, *Agricultural Policies Markets and Trade*, greeted ministers from the 24 countries as they arrived for the two-day conference.

Britain's delegation, headed by Mr John Major, the Chancellor, Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Trade Secretary, and Mr Francis Maude, the Foreign Minister.

The report shows that farming subsidies in the OECD countries totalled \$245 billion last year. This is 13 per cent lower than the \$282 billion paid in 1988.

The amount of subsidy as a proportion of total production also fell, from 45 per cent to 39 per cent.

However, the report claimed the fall was due to one-off factors, such as commodity price rises and the strength of the dollar, rather than any concerted national effort.

Subsidies in 1988 were also boosted by US drought relief



Maude: speaking for UK

to farmers in the Mid-West. The debate on world agricultural trade is expected to dominate the OECD meeting.

Ministers hope to put pressure on the Uruguay round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) talks to reach an agreement by the end of the year.

The talks are still dogged by divisions between the US and the EC countries on the level of subsidy that should be available to farmers.

The OECD report concludes: "Whatever path is taken, the reform must lead to a reduction in overall assistance... to achieve the long-term objective of market

orientation to benefit the economy as a whole."

An EC spokesman, however, challenged the report's suggestion that it was not taking effective action to reduce subsidies.

"We disagree with this," he said. "Since 1986 we have applied quotas, and if world prices have risen, it is because we have reduced production."

He said that the EC's new subsidy measure, the Aggregate Measure of Support (AMS), showed the Community had reduced subsidies by 10 per cent in vegetable products and 15 per cent in meat and dairy produce since 1988.

The EC now hopes to persuade the US to use the AMS as a basis for a GATT agreement and has reaffirmed its commitment to a "substantial, progressive reduction of support."

The spokesman said the EC was only willing to negotiate on all subsidies together, unlike the US which has been pressing for separate debates on internal support, export subsidies and protectionism.

The EC is not prepared for further negotiations at the OECD meeting but hopes the communiqué might open the way to discussions at the Houston summit in July.

British tax system 'still needs reform'

BRITAIN continues to suffer from a distorted tax system and a rigid labour market, according to a report from the OECD.

The report, an update on economic reform within the OECD's 24 member countries, said there was "unfinished business" in Britain's tax reform. It called for changes to employers' contributions to National Insurance and stiffer levies on benefit in kind, particularly company cars.

The OECD also attacked tax relief on mortgages, while it called for an end to export subsidies and government preference for national products.

Apart from tax, the organization sees the recent education reforms as crucial but says further measures may be needed.

Overall, the OECD said that all its members had made some progress in free-market reforms but that reforms had been limited in trade and agriculture.

The multilateral trading system continued to be under strain, the report said. The organization concluded that its member needed to be more willing to provide necessary economic data.

City rail link inaugurated



Out-Victorizing the Victorians: Stuart Lipton (left) and Godfrey Bradman

THE first new railway station in the City of London to be opened for more than 100 years, got half way there when St Paul's Thameslink station was inaugurated (Matthew Bond writes).

Mr Chris Green, director of British Rail's Network South East, described the speed at which the new tracks had been laid as "out-Victorizing the Victorians."

Bearing the £50 million cost of the station is Rosehaugh-Stanhope Developments, the joint venture between the

City's two leading quoted developers Rosehaugh, chaired by Mr Godfrey Bradman, and Stanhope Properties, chaired by Mr Stuart Lipton.

The cost will be deducted from the 600,000 sq ft Liverpool office development that will now begin above the new tunnel which RSD hopes will repeat the success it found at Broadgate, its Liverpool Street development.

Lipton is scheduled to be the last scheme tackled by the joint venture company.

Eurocopy profits surge 135% to £5.49m

By OUR CITY STAFF

PRE-TAX profits at Eurocopy, the acquisitive photocopier and facsimile distributor, surged by 135 per cent to £5.49 million in the six months to end-March.

Turnover, boosted by acquisitions and organic growth, leapt from £8.03 million to £24 million.

The company saw a 198 per cent increase in income from metered charges to £10.1 million.

Eps jump from 3.98p to 7.39p, and the interim dividend is improved to 1.1p, against 0.9p last time.

Mr Cyril Gay, chairman and managing director, said that while there are clear indications the UK economy is slowing "trading is continuing at the record levels experienced in the quarter-end to March."

Mr Gay said Equipo, which was acquired from Sketchley in March 1989, has improved its profit contribution after reorganization and added about £2.3 million to the group's operating profits.

The company is sitting on £13 million cash, and it is "looking at possible takeover opportunities within our range." Interest receipts climbed from £268,000 to £686,000. The shares advanced by 9p to 228p.

HK eases entry rules to tackle labour shortage

From LULU YU IN HONG KONG

AN ACUTE labour shortage has forced Hong Kong to relax immigration rules to admit more foreign workers.

The Executive Council, Hong Kong's cabinet, approved plans to import up to 10,000 workers this year to help to ease a chronic shortage that has caused many companies to switch production to China.

"All have argued that since inflation is caused mainly by wage increases as a result of an excess of demand over supply in the labour market, we must import labour," Sir David Frost, Chief Secretary, said.

He said, however, that this would not open the floodgates to an influx of foreigners. "We are not contemplating large-scale, indiscriminate importation of untrained, inexperienced labour," he said.

Hong Kong has a population of fewer than 6 million, but there are vacancies of up to 200,000 in its workforce of about 3 million. Unemployment is always below 2 per cent. Worst-hit by the lack of skilled and unskilled labour are the hotel and service sectors, textiles, construction and manufacturing.

Last year, the government began tackling the problem by introducing a quota of 3,000 overseas workers to be imported. However, the rules were so stringent and inadequate that only 1,600 — mainly technicians and craftsmen — were admitted. Many others either did not qualify or became entangled in immigration red tape.

Mr Martin Barrow, a legislator who chairs a coalition of trade and commercial organizations, said: "It was a very modest scheme whose

Heat hits H Young results

By PHILIP PANGALOS

A COMBINATION of the introduction of charges for sight tests, the hot summer's effects on sales of grass cutting equipment and reduced consumer spending took their toll on the profits of H Young Holdings, the distribution to financial services group.

Pre-tax profits plunged to £251,000 in the six months to end-March, from £1.61 million last time. Turnover fell from £17.2 million to £13.8 million, with the optical division contributing about £5.5 million. Earnings per share slumped from 7.0p to 1.1p. The interim dividend is, however, maintained at 2p.

Mr John Wilson, chairman, said that trading in the interim period's first three months had remained depressed, but all areas of the business had improved both sales and profitability since the start of 1990, with sales in the period's second and three months rising 28 per cent on the first three. Gross margins had been at least maintained and costs reduced.

Young expects to declare a 4p final dividend, for an unchanged full-year total of 6p.

An extraordinary profit of £5.38 million relates to the sale of the Readygas business.

The shares held at 65p, after

Capita to acquire JE Greatrex

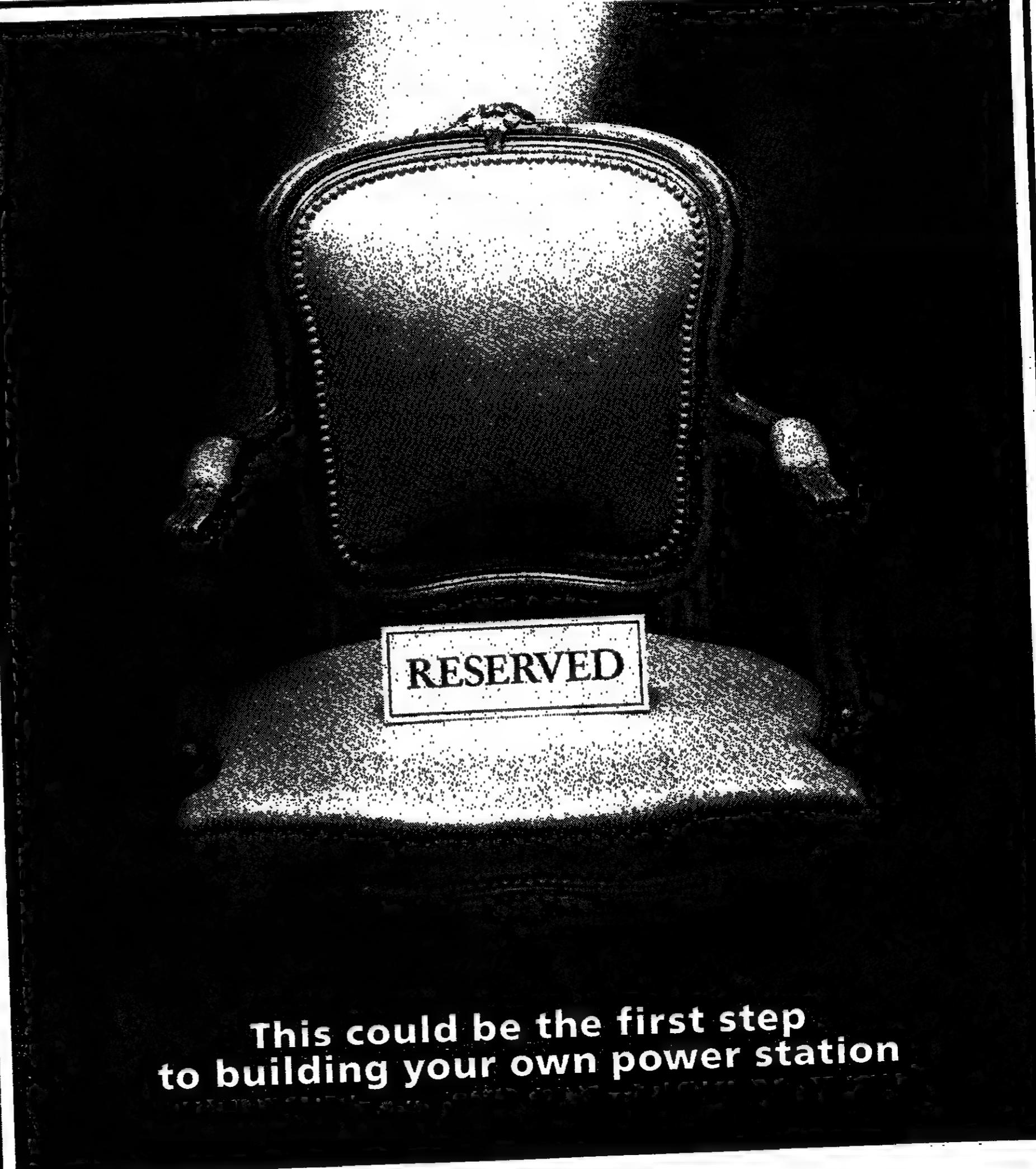
By OUR CITY STAFF

CAPITA Group, the United Securities Market public sector management consultant, is acquiring JE Greatrex (JEG), a professional practice of consulting engineers specializing in building engineering services, for a maximum of £9 million, depending on profit levels.

On completion, Capita will make an initial payment of £5 million, which will be satisfied by the issue of 3.16 million new ordinary shares. Of these, 595,000 will be retained and the remaining 2,560 million will be placed on behalf of the vendors to raise £4 million in cash. The new shares to be placed will be offered to shareholders on the basis of one offer share for every 3.42 ordinary shares held, at 156p per share.

JEG reported pre-tax profits of £1.05 million in the year to end-December, representing an historic exit price earnings ratio of 7.35 times on the initial payment.

Capita said it is trading significantly ahead of last year's levels. The acquisition has to be approved by shareholders at an extraordinary general meeting on June 15. Capita shares fell by 2p to 167p.



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Incorrect billings cost car rental firms £30m a year

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

CAR rental companies are losing as much as £30 million a year through inefficient or incorrect billings, according to European, Britain's largest car rental company.

The company disclosed the size of the industry's losses while announcing plans to streamline its business significantly by introducing a single tariff system.

Europcar has also created Business Drive, a service for the international traveller, covering 20 countries, including Eastern Europe. It could mean someone would be able to pick up a car in Paris and drive to Moscow if needed.

The single tariff system is introduced as competition for customers intensifies in the car rental industry, which has a total turnover of more than £800 million.

The main companies are acting to cut losses under pressure from high interest rates, which are raising the capital cost of buying huge fleets, and poor resale prices on their used cars. Computer billing has done little to cancel out inefficiencies, often caused by confusing price structures.

Europcar, which has 15,000 vehicles, worth £170 million, operating from 200 British sites, says that customers have

Guinness up on hopes that LVMH will boost stake

GUINNESS surged by 18p to 742p as the market decided that LVMH, M. Bernard Arnault's French luxury goods-to-spirits group, would reveal how it intended to increase its stake in Guinness at a presentation to be held in London in a fortnight.

Only a few weeks ago, few people thought M Arnault was likely to pay more than 750p a share. But yesterday's rise indicated that the market is now looking for something more than 800p.

Guinness owns 24 per cent of LVMH, while LVMH owns 12 per cent of Guinness. But, under the two companies' marketing agreement, LVMH has indicated that it is likely to take its holding up to 24 per cent — matching the Guinness stake.

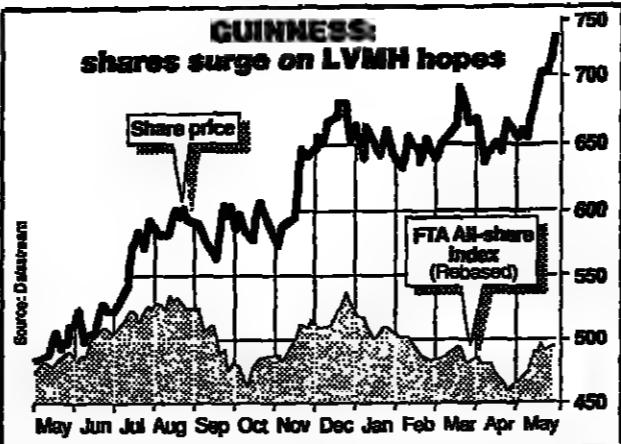
LVMH has two routes open to it. It can either buy shares in the market or it can subscribe for new ones. Although 6 million shares were traded yesterday, analysts believe that LVMH would have a tough time buying Guinness shares in the market. However, Guinness is thought unlikely to issue such a big line of new shares and it would require shareholders' approval.

A LVMH spokesman denied that it had instructed Warburg Securities to buy Guinness at up to 825p a share. Nomura is understood to have held a presentation in Tokyo last night to draw Japanese institutions' attention to the group's attractions.

Although buying was considerably more pronounced than on Tuesday, dealers reported good two-way traffic with a number of fund managers selling into strengthening prices. Some 556 million shares were traded.

With prices moving steadily higher, Bowater's one-for-four rights issue, to raise £140 million, was well timed. After falling to 497p on the news, the shares recovered to close unchanged at 514p, a healthy premium to the 425p issue price.

Blue Circle, down 2p to 48p, was one of the shares coming



rose 17p to 467p and Whitbread A put on 7p to 429p. Wolverhampton & Dudley shook off its ex-dividend blues with a 19p advance to 387p. Highland Distilleries, which sells mainly to British whisky drinkers, added 8p to 218p.

Marina Developments jumped 20p to 348p in the USM on news that Priest Marian had placed its 16 per cent stake. The PM stake has overhauled the Marina price for more than a year. Vattion, Mr Robert Iliffe's private investment trust, has acquired a 16.3 per cent stake.

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Blue Circle, down 2p to 48p, was one of the shares coming

under selling pressure as the market gave up waiting for a bid from Hanson. However, RMC Group continued its strong run with a 19p gain to 696p. John Mowlem also gave up some of its recent gains to close 12p lower at 318p. Also on the way down was Ultramar, the oil group, 8p

lower at 339p, on a switch recommendation from Kleinwort Benson.

Rail stocks, however,

benefited from the market's growing optimism on the domestic economy. Argos rose 10p to 227p, helped by continuing talk of interest from Kingfisher. Dixons,

Kingfisher's previous target,

was back in favour with an 8p

price rise to 134p. Kingfisher

moved up 15p to 230p and GUS A 56p to £10.39.

Only a Goldring defied the

trend, running back 6p to 43p

in response to the board's

view that Tuesday's price rise

was "unwarranted."

In the leisure sector,

Ladbrokes rose a further 9p to

318p, making a two-day gain

of 24p despite going

ex-dividend on Tuesday. A

bear raid last week is thought

to have gone badly wrong.

Mecca Leisure, however, fell

another 2p to 84p, shrugging

off the news of a management

buyout of the group's remaining

casinos.

Among the index, the

stocks, Thames fell 33p to

513p as Sir Ian Trethowan, the

chairman, issued a warning

that an increase in the Ex-

chequer levy had coincided

with a decrease in advertising

revenue and was likely to lead

to lower-than-expected prof-

its.

Despite a 68 per cent

improvement in pre-tax prof-

its to £187.5 million, SWG

Warburg slipped 6p to 424p as

Sir David Scholey, the chair-

man, sounded a note of caution

about the results' repeat-

ability.

In the property sector,

Speybank added 7p to 178p

on interim results showing

that it is still possible to

make money out of develop-

ing. Rosehaugh put on 8p to

213p in sympathy. British

Land improved 13p to 346p

ahead of next week's results.

Matthew Bond

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Tracing the link in the Aids family tree

Researchers claim to have found the clearest clue yet to the origin of HIV. Thomson Prentice looks at the value of their discovery of a virus in chimpanzees

The latest and most intriguing clues to the origins of the Aids virus have been found circulating in the blood of two chimpanzees from an African rainforest. Scientists believe the evidence could be an important chapter in the history of an epidemic that has infected up to 10 million people world-wide and hope it will help in the development of a vaccine against the disease.

Researchers in Gabon, in equatorial West Africa, and at the Pasteur Institute in Paris, say that the virus they have isolated from the chimpanzees is more closely related to HIV, the human immunodeficiency virus, than any other organism found previously in African monkeys.

If they are correct, studies on the animals could open up new approaches to vaccine experiments.

Describing the work, Dr Simon Wain-Hobson, a British virologist at the Pasteur Institute in Paris, said in last week's issue of *Nature*: "Inevitably, the similarity elicits speculation as to their evolutionary relationship and the origins of the current Aids epidemic."

The findings were described in the journal by Dr Ronald Desrosiers, an American Aids expert, as "the most significant clues to date" about where HIV came from. Other specialists are more cautious, but do not doubt the potential value of the discovery.

Three weeks from now in San Francisco, at the world's biggest conference on Aids, to be attended by more than 10,000 delegates, leading scientists will discuss the evolution of the virus.

Almost since the first days of the epidemic, the question of its origins has intrigued the public at large. Bizarre theories have been put forward, such as that the causative virus may have come from outer space, or have been the by-product, accidental or deliberate, of laboratory experiments on biological warfare agents.

The mainstream consensus, however, is that HIV is descended from a common ancestor virus, almost certainly carried by one of a host of African primates.

When HIV was first discovered in 1983, its background was a mystery. Then, in 1985, a second strain, now known as HIV-2, was found in West Africa. In the same year, researchers identified a virus closely resembling HIV-2 in African macaques and called it simian immunodeficiency virus, or SIV.

Since then, a group of related viruses have been detected in both wild and captive monkeys. They have emerged in African green monkeys in the Central African Republic, Ethiopia and Kenya; in mandrills in Cameroon, Congo and Gabon, and in sooty mangabeys in Liberia and other parts of western Africa. The tests have been confirmed in animals exported to the United States, Europe and Japan.

Most of the viruses have

been closer to HIV-2 than HIV-1, and have had in common the puzzling fact that they do not cause Aids-like disease in the carrier animals, but do produce a similar illness when injected into other monkey species, such as Asian macaques.

The organisms are all part of a family called lentiviruses which, before the advent of Aids, were known to provoke slow-moving immunodeficiency disease in sheep, horses, goats, cattle and cats. As with Aids, infection could take years to progress to clinical symptoms – invariably the outcome was fatal.

The chimpanzee virus is baffling. The researchers involved insist that the animals were never used in medical experiments, never inoculated with human blood products, never handled by people who might be carrying HIV, and that they were caught in an area of Gabon with a low rate of HIV infection.

Dr Desrosiers says that if HIV entered the human population by transmission of a virus from another species relatively recently, "increasing prevalence and high mortality would then be consequences of infection of the new host."

American researchers Dr Murray Gardner and Paul Luciw, of the University of California at Davis, say of the evolutionary tree: "Regardless of how long ago these viruses entered humans, it seems clear that the Aids epidemic represents, since about 1976, an explosive escape of HIV-1 from an isolated human population."

Despite the criticisms of doctors who say it distracts from the real issue of combating the spread of Aids, the question of origins is neither academic nor trivial.

Professor Robin Weiss, one of Britain's leading virologists and Aids researchers, says: "Studying the evolution of these viruses is scientifically very important."

"We could be criticized with justification if we were only looking backwards. But we are trying to understand how situations arose, and looking forward to see how we can prevent them happening again."

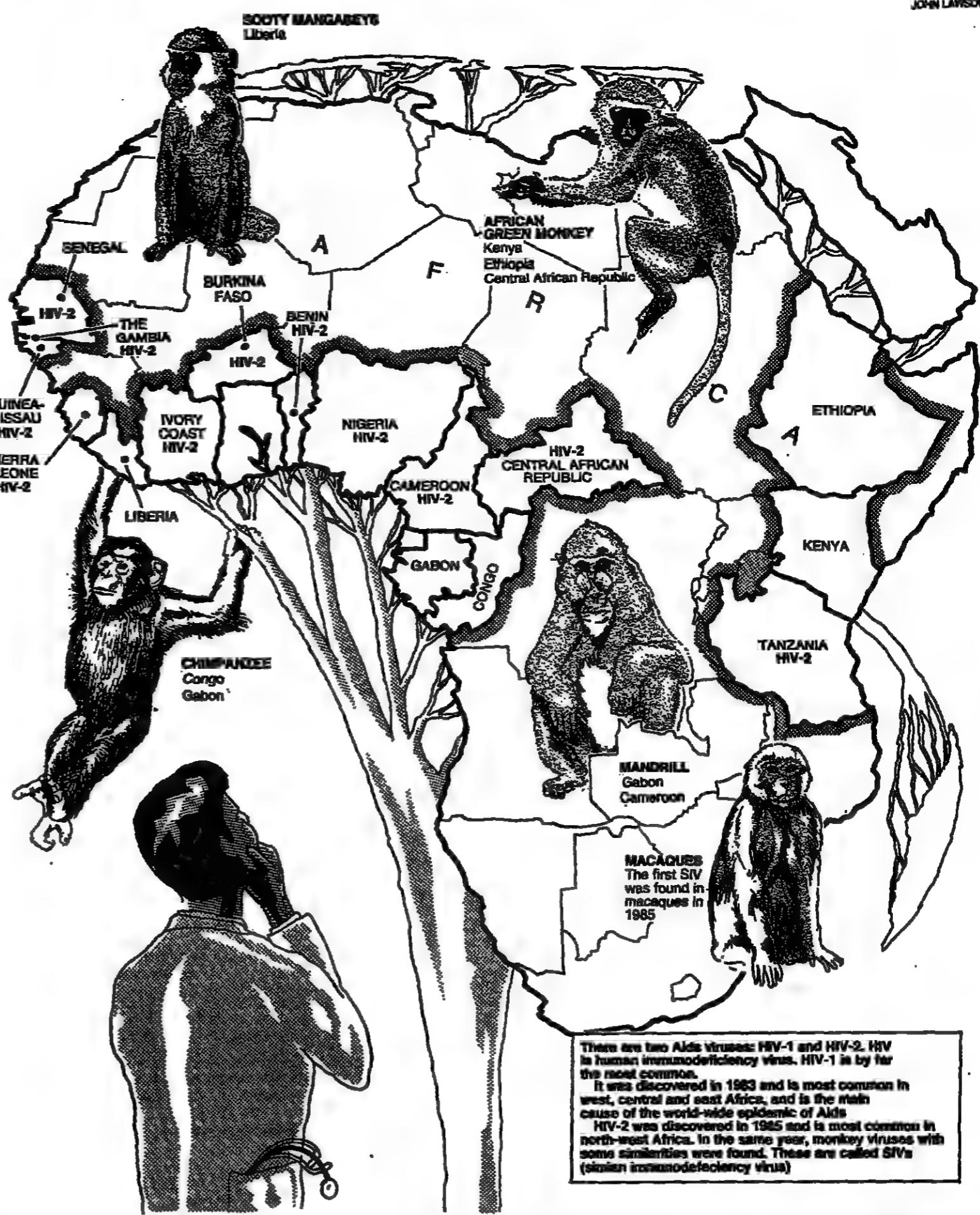
In a striking observation, he says: "I don't think this sort of work needs to be defended in a month in which we have just seen evidence of the infectious agent that causes 'mad cow disease' apparently jumping species and turning up in cats."

One plausible theory is that people were infected through being bitten or scratched by monkeys carrying the virus, or through eating them or coming into contact with their blood.

According to Professor Luc Montagnier, of the Pasteur Institute in Paris, who discovered HIV-1, the evolutionary tree could be at least 100 years old, and the progenitor species of monkey could now be extinct.

He and some other experts suspect that the infection lay dormant, or at least unrecognized, for many years in humans in western and central Africa.

The emergence of what is now called Aids may, according to this theory, have been due to the well-documented mass migration of Africans in the last few decades from remote areas of the continent into the big cities. Among the migrants would have been infected but symptomless HIV carriers, who transmitted the virus to an urban popula-



There are two Aids viruses: HIV-1 and HIV-2. HIV is human immunodeficiency virus. HIV-1 is by far the most common. It was discovered in 1983 and is most common in west, central and east Africa, and is the main cause of the world-wide epidemic of Aids. HIV-2 was discovered in 1985 and is most common in north-west Africa. In the same year, monkey viruses with some similarities were found. These are called SIVs (simian immunodeficiency virus).

Hi-tech embargo to ease

Changes in the Eastern bloc are forcing a reconsideration of Cocom export policy

Pressure for change from the allies, for whom trade with the East is important, threatened to burst the bounds of good relations.

The White House responded in January with a security review by the joint chiefs of staff. To no one's surprise, the US Government found itself able to accede to a complete overhaul of the Cocom system.

NEXT week in Paris the allies will be offered a 35 per cent reduction in Cocom's industry list of dual-use technology. Just 65 of the present 118 items will remain, forming a "core list" of nine technology categories suggested.

Working parties have been frantically sorting out the details discussing machine tools at the beginning of May, then computers, and telecommunications equipment last week.

The allies will protest that these concessions do not go far enough, but they are likely to be accepted. In return, the US will demand concessions – that remaining items are strictly controlled and that those countries of eastern Europe which move most swiftly towards democracy receive preferential treatment.

Throughout 1989, America insisted that the turmoil in the East made the world less stable and reinforced the need for strong export controls.

Enterprises submit to inspection and introduce compliance systems to safeguard western technology from the Soviet Union.

Critics argue that preferential treatment for favoured countries threatens to revive the American use of export controls for foreign policy and even economic warfare. The reforming governments of eastern Europe are being offered no more than the level of technology available to post-Tiananmen China.

The extension to eastern Europe of the very compliance systems that currently plague western business hardly seems to foreshadow the dismantling of these systems in the west.

More lenient American export controls will inevitably accompany reform of Cocom, but withdrawal of the US claim to extraterritorial jurisdiction need not.

American authorities have now abandoned attempts to track individual items of technology and have delegated to manufacturers, both US and foreign, responsibility for controlling their own technology. These days, they simply check on firms' compliance systems.

Firms guard their technology religiously, sometimes even from their own employees. Usually they over-comply, terrified of the penalties by Macmillions.

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Creativity or innovation?

Dr John Franz discovered environmentally friendly herbicide 20 years ago. He plots the path research must take to protect our future

During the next 10 years, environmentalists will become more insistent on the theme "modern technology owes ecology an apology". Any apology will probably come with a high price tag.

The successful companies will be those that learn how to make an apology unnecessary by the development of environmentally friendly products. This will require rethinking about how we can carry out the research and discovery process in a more efficient manner.

Research is defined by different people in various ways. One version is that research is going up blind alleys to see if they are really blind. Werner von Braun defined it as: "Basic research is when I'm doing what I don't know what I'm doing."

Research is simply the search for new knowledge. But the process is complex and usually unclear even in the minds of those doing the work. Scientists tend to be individualists and their work is often based more on intuition and personal judgement than on logic or fixed procedures.

In scientific research, one of the most common mistakes is to believe all that one reads and not to distinguish between the results of experiments and the author's interpretation of those results.

While an open mind is an important element in the research process, it is not the only element.

One hears a lot today about creativity and innovation. Although the terms are often used synonymously, these factors are actually quite different.

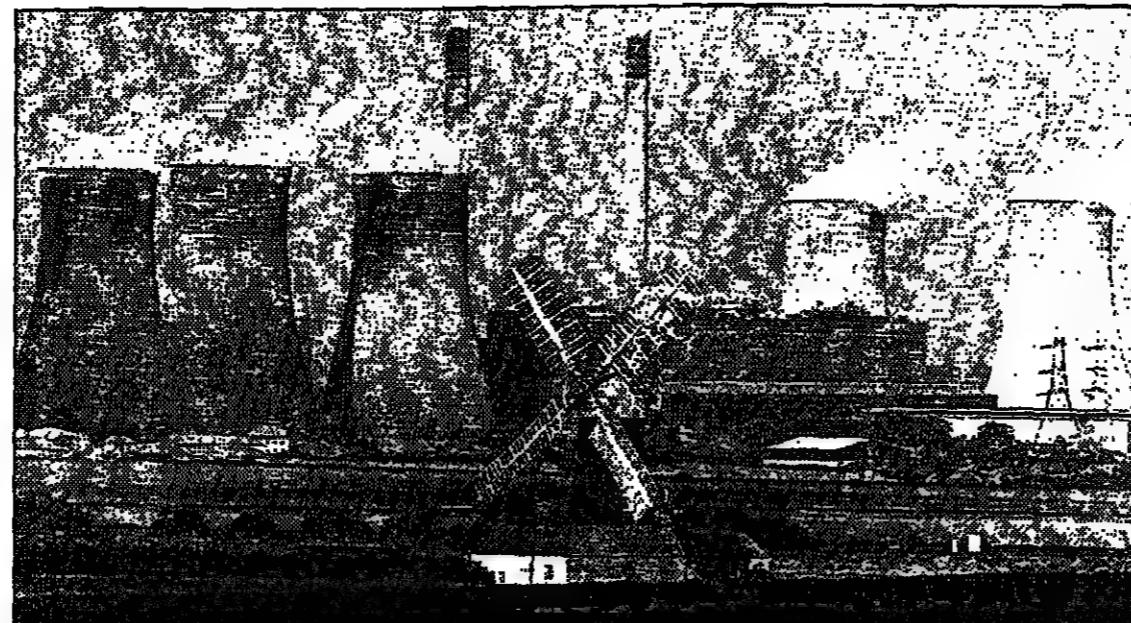
Creativity is intrinsic. It involves new insight on a solution to a problem. Innovation, on the other hand, is the process by which creative ideas or inventions are transformed into commercial products or processes.

Creativity can be stimulated or suppressed in those who have it, but it cannot be generated in those who do not. The creative scientist is often the one who breaks with collective thinking and challenges the assumptions underlying the prevailing paradigms or traditional teaching. Creative scientists usually prefer to work alone or as leaders of a group.

Innovation relates to the commercialization process and it is best accomplished by team effort because it requires multiple skills, persistence, flexibility, compromise and strong focus.

Another important element in the research process is chance. Many of the significant discoveries in chemistry were strictly empirical, based on experiment and observation, rather than on scientific principles, and were made following a false hypothesis or chance observation.

There is a clear example: in the mid-1800s, William Perkin, aged 18, who was trying to oxidize a



Time in balance: the research process must be changed to help redress the damage done to ecology

compound to make quinine, came up with a dirty black solid. Most chemists would call this "gunk" and throw it away. But Perkin, later Sir William, extracted his "gunk" and, by chance, discovered a purple dye that became the basis for the synthetic chemical dye industry.

It would be a mistake to think of unexpected discoveries of this type as accidental. The truth lies in one of Louis Pasteur's famous sayings: "In the field of observation, chance favours only the prepared mind."

Hypothesis is the principal intellectual instrument in research. Its primary function is to suggest new experiments and it sometimes results in discoveries although incorrect in itself.

Society today is very environment conscious. We need to protect our natural resources to provide for our needs today and for our grandchildren's needs. Developments in molecular biology will help us to realize this goal.

There can be little doubt that, in the Eighties, the innovative dev-

elopment of transgenic crop plants by the use of genetic engineering was one of the great achievements in agricultural research. Transgenic plants are ordinary plants that have been altered in a beneficial way by the insertion of an additional gene.

Seeds for some plants of this type with resistance to herbicides or insects, bacteria, viruses and fungi will almost certainly become commercial realities in the mid-Nineties. Any new pesticides will have to satisfy the many criteria for environmental safety.

All of the unique commercial herbicides have been discovered by the use of empirical methods, which are based on the routine biological screening of non-targeted synthetic chemicals or natural products.

It is not surprising that many of these products, although good herbicides, will be found to inhibit enzymes which are common to both plants and animals. In the future, such products will be increasingly difficult to register.

Continuing to rely on chance for both the discovery and safety of future pesticides would seem to be a

very high-risk proposition. Can a more efficient method be developed for this purpose? I believe that a method called biostatistical design will receive more emphasis in the discovery process.

This method is commonly employed in pharmaceutical research and has been successful in the discovery of some multi-million dollar products such as captopril, which is an antihypertensive drug. The approach uses a sequence of operations that is essentially the reverse of that followed by the empirical methods of discovery in use today. A unique enzyme target is selected first and then products are designed to inhibit the target.

Perhaps this holds a vital key for research in the Nineties.

• Dr John Franz began his career with Monsanto Research and Development in St Louis, Missouri, in 1955. In 1980 he was promoted to distinguished Fellow and this year won the Perkin Medal awarded annually to a US resident in recognition of successful applied chemistry that results in outstanding commercial development. This is an extract from his acceptance speech.

than the Sun, during the 1975 US-Soviet manned mission, the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project.

At 59, Vance Brand, the commander of the seven-man crew of the Columbia, is the oldest astronaut to fly in space. He was also commander of the first fully operational flight of the shuttle system in 1982.

The latest flight, four of whose members are astronauts, carries the largest crew since the Challenger disaster.

There is no mandatory retirement age for astronauts. The average age is 41.

PEARCE WRIGHT

Firms are looking no further than across the Irish Sea for the answer to their staff needs

Businesses are looking to the Irish Republic to solve problems of recruiting information technology staff for Britain, while increased job opportunities in the republic are encouraging IT experts to return.

British firms see the Republic as a way to reduce the cost of developing software by taking advantage of the larger numbers of graduates and lower salaries on offer compared with Britain.

Companies such as Norwich Union, Oracle, Electronic Data Systems and Third Wave Group are some of those to announce plans to open software development centres in Ireland this year.

One IT manager of a manufacturing firm in the Midlands says he has such trouble recruiting staff that he may move the entire computer operation to Ireland.

Also, Irish government concessions attract companies which are liable for only 10 per cent corporate tax until the year 2010 and are paid £6,000 to £10,000 per job created, with half the fee payable immediately and the remainder after 12 months if the job still exists.

The number of IT companies has been rising steadily during the past few years but now many American insurance companies are moving over here, particularly in the past six to 12 months," John Gorman, director of the Irish Industrial Development Authority (IDA), says. "Many computer manufacturing firms are also adding a software development arm to their Irish plants."

Roy Townrow, ICL's general manager of customer training, says: "The contrast between Ireland and the rest of the European Community

is dramatic. More than half the population is under 25 and Ireland has a higher proportion of computer science graduates than any other Community member state, with future plans to increase them by more than 50 per cent in the next three years."

ICL recently selected Dublin as its base for a European-wide expansion of training courses because of Ireland's abundant supply of highly qualified young people. Recently it advertised in Britain for staff to move to Ireland.

The IDA says half of all high school graduates enter higher education and that more than half of those pursue business, technological and computing disciplines. The IDA estimates that there are now 300 IT companies in the Irish Republic. Salaries for IT staff are about 20 per cent lower than in Britain. Office rents are considerably cheaper.

The Third Wave Group, known for managing software development projects in countries such as India on behalf of British clients, opened an office in Dublin this year.

Many American financial services companies are establishing offices in Ireland to process clerical information which is then transmitted back to the US. But Ireland's greatest success has been in attracting foreign electronics manufacturing operations.

Most big American computer manufacturers have plants in Ireland and are heavily involved in research and development. The Irish plants are increasingly taking on original design projects, as opposed to assembling systems designed elsewhere.

These developments are increasing the opportunities for engineers, scientists and software engineers. Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC) has been in Ireland for 20 years and employs more than 1,700 staff at its three manufacturing and software development centres. The company hires scientists in diverse areas such as thermal dynamics as it expands its engineering design operations.

LESLIE TILLEY

As Irish eyes are working...

TWO orbiting observatories, due to be launched separately, will open more 'windows' on the universe for astronomers

WITH the dust scarcely settled from the launch of the Hubble space telescope, astronomers are poised this week to open new "windows" on the universe with two new orbiting observatories.

One, a 2.5-ton spacecraft called the Rosat (Roentgen satellite) X-ray astronomy project, is a collaborative venture between the US, Britain and West Germany planned for launch tomorrow by a Delta rocket, also from Cape Canaveral, Florida. It will conduct a systematic survey of the whole sky for six months, using a new generation of

New sights on X-ray radiation

telescopes devised by a group of pioneers in X-ray astronomy from Leicester University. They hope to find 100,000 new X-ray sources.

The other is a manned £90 million observatory called Astro-2 with four telescopes, carried by the space shuttle Columbia where they will remain during a 10-day mission. The launch planned for yesterday has been delayed.

Equipment on Columbia

especially is designed to detect the energy flowing from violent eruptions in distant stars in the form of Extreme Ultraviolet (EUV) radiation, but which falls in the part of the electromagnetic spectrum between visible light and radio waves that is the most difficult to "see" from the ground.

The problems of measuring EUV are even greater than those for all the other radiations such as X-rays, infra-

red and near ultraviolet that are absorbed by the Earth's atmosphere. Yet EUV radiation, which covers wavelengths between 4.4 and 91.2 nanometres, is an important factor in deciding the state and age of hot celestial objects.

This type of radiation was first detected coming from the intensely hot outer layer, or corona, of the Sun, consisting of gas at a temperature of more than 1 million °C.

Although an EUV detector should provide a device to probe some of the hottest bodies of the universe, one problem remains. Hydrogen is a powerful absorber of EUV radiation and interstellar space is filled with vast clouds of it. Hence, only a dozen other sources of EUV radiation, most of them closer than 250 light years, have been identified after the first discovery of a source, other

than the Sun, during the 1975 US-Soviet manned mission, the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project.

At 59, Vance Brand, the commander of the seven-man crew of the Columbia, is the oldest astronaut to fly in space. He was also commander of the first fully operational flight of the shuttle system in 1982.

The latest flight, four of whose members are astronauts, carries the largest crew since the Challenger disaster.

There is no mandatory retirement age for astronauts. The average age is 41.

PEARCE WRIGHT

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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The Civil Aviation Authority is an independent public body responsible for economic, technical, operational and safety aspects of British civil aviation.

Openings have arisen for two Assistant Project Leaders and one Project Scientist to join the Air Traffic Control Evaluation Unit at Bournemouth (Hurn) Airport. The Unit is established to develop and evaluate techniques and equipments for future air traffic systems. Simulation plays a major role in these studies.

Duties of the Assistant Project Leaders would involve planning, organising, analysing and reporting on the human factors aspects of real-time simulation projects. Applicants must be numerate graduates, preferably with a post graduate qualification related to human factors, and have experience in the development of

man-machine interfaces and a knowledge of team behaviour.

The Project Scientist would support and assist in running, analysing and reporting on human factors aspects of real-time simulation and other studies. Applicants must have a good degree in psychology, ergonomics or related fields.

Applicants must be able to express themselves clearly, both orally and in writing.

The Assistant Project Leader posts are in salary range up to £19,127. The Project Scientist post is in salary range up to £15,117.

To apply, please forward your C.V. ref JH/1, to: Ms J Handford, Civil Aviation Authority, Personnel Services, Room T1228, CAA House, 45-59 Kingsway, London WC2B 6TE. Telephone: 071-832 6688.

SCIENCE EDITING

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Continued on page 34

On the highway to help

Swish on your car: it tells you that 25.9 miles ahead there is a tailback, it plots your alternative route, it warns you that a child is crossing at the corner, unseen by your eyes, and it applies its own brakes when the car ahead jobs suddenly to a stop.

Such an "intelligent car" is being developed at more than 100 research laboratories across Europe in a bid to meet the challenge of our increasingly congested and hazardous roads.

The project harnesses the latest in microchip technology, on-board displays, telecommunications and sensors. These smart vehicles would be able to communicate with each other and with roadside transmitters and receivers to help drivers avoid accidents, find less congested routes and to improve the efficiency of motoring generally. Eighteen of the big automobile makers and more than 100 electronics and component supply firms have given their backing and full co-operation.

The project is called Prometheus (Programme for a European Traffic with Highest Efficiency and Unprecedented Safety), a collaborative venture launched under the Europa banner three years ago.

Researchers, who are al-

most half-way through the programme, which is expected to take another four years of research, claim that the project may help ensure the survival of the car as a common form of transport.

Safety, including that of pedestrians and cyclists, is a major concern of the project. Many accidents are caused by drivers deciding to overtake

when the proximity of oncoming traffic makes the manoeuvre too dangerous. The driver may be tired, have poor judgement or be hampered by fog or other bad weather conditions. Under Prometheus, researchers are developing sensors and communication systems that will alert a driver to a potentially dangerous manoeuvre.

Apart from warning drivers against risky moves, Prometheus also aims to alert drivers to places where special caution should be observed, such as near schools.

Again, a head-up display

may flash on to the windscreen a picture of the familiar roadside red triangle which the driver might have missed.

Night-time driving has been identified as another hazard for pedestrians and drivers. Prometheus is developing an autonomous aid system to give the driver "car's eyes". This involves an infra-red sweep of the road ahead that also works in bad weather conditions, defining the silhouette

of pedestrians, calculate the speed and distance of an oncoming vehicle, warning the driver that attempting to overtake is too dangerous.

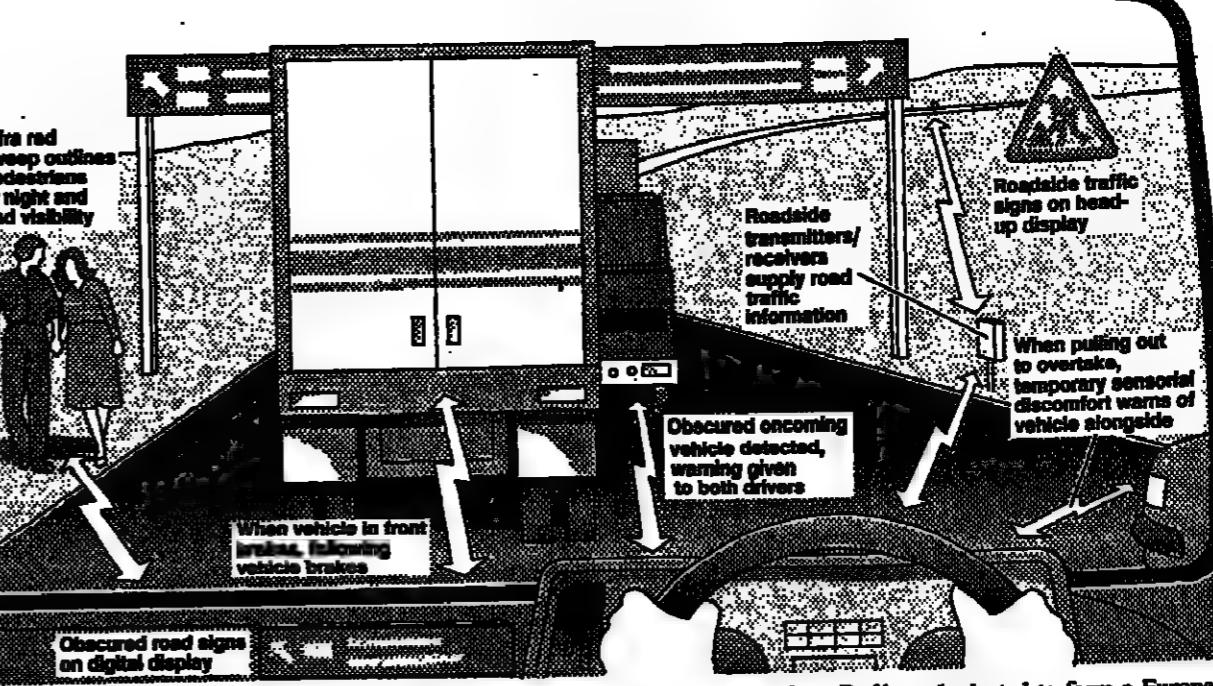
The warnings may come in several ways: researchers are experimenting with "head-up" displays, already used in aeroplanes, which flash signals directly on to the windscreen.

Other warning systems may include computer synthesized voice messages and "sensorial warnings" in which a potentially dangerous move triggers a sensation of temporary discomfort to the driver via the seat or steering wheel.

Apart from warning drivers against risky moves, Prometheus also aims to alert drivers to places where special caution should be observed, such as near schools.

In a bid to prevent pile-ups, which are becoming a more worrying aspect of motorway driving, researchers are examining ways of developing a European-wide continuous communication between cars and roadside sensors. The system disseminates information to cars at points further along the road.

Another part of the programme involves the development of an automatic braking



'When a car brakes, it triggers the brakes of the vehicle behind'

and Rolls-Royce in Britain, Fiat in Italy, Volvo in Sweden and BMW and Daimler-Benz in West Germany, many aspects of the project are now beginning to bear fruit.

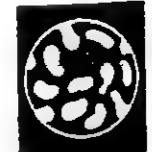
Teams across Europe are now attempting to translate laboratory work into common European demonstrator models, whose systems can be built, tested and

budgeted to form a European standard. Hans-Peter Glaube, who heads the Prometheus office based at Daimler-Benz in Stuttgart, emphasizes that the project is not aimed at "crushing the driver under a technological dictatorship which takes every decision for him."

"However, an accident is an unintentional event. In most cases it occurs because the driver does not have the information fast enough or because stopping the vehicle

requires the immediate activation of a complex chain of technical functions," he says.

Cancer link in gene trial



A STUDY conducted on seven patients showed that human blood cells carrying foreign genes not only survived, but were also able to target tumours. It is the first approved attempt at human gene therapy — a technique which inserts potentially helpful genes inside the body. Dr Steven Rosenberg, a researcher at the US National Cancer Institute, says the trial will be followed up with a project to equip a patient's blood cells with a gene that delivers a powerful natural cancer-killing substance, known as tumour necrosis factor. Researchers hope this will cure the disease by blitzing the tumour with high levels of toxic proteins. Dr Rosenberg outlined his results at the annual meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology last week.

Early rider

THE first direct proof that humans rode horses before the wheel was invented has been reported by a scientist who made a microscopic study of horse teeth discovered in the Ukraine and buried about 4000 BC. This revealed scratches from a mouth bit that clearly indicate the horse had been ridden, according to David Anthony, assistant professor of anthropology at Hartwick College in New York. The traditional view is that horseback riding developed between 2000 BC and 1500 BC in the Ukraine. While there was archaeological evidence that riding may have occurred earlier, there was no direct evidence. Dr Anthony used a powerful scanning electron microscope to compare the casts with teeth from modern horses. If the horse was ridden, it would have been 500 to 700 years before the invention of the wheel.

Speedy sums

A JAPANESE supercomputer made by Hitachi has become the fastest "single processor" machine in the world, beating the established leader, Cray Research. The Hitachi machine is not new, but has been able to triple speed by using software that improves its ability to handle certain scientific tasks. Although Cray still holds the record for the fastest multiprocessor system, the study, performed at an American energy department research centre, is likely to increase US concern that it is on the verge of losing the lead in supercomputers — an important area for both military and commercial uses. Next year, a range of new supercomputers is expected which will far exceed the performance of existing models.

Earthquake fear

AN earthquake of "moderate magnitude" is being predicted within two years on the Parkfield segment of the San Andreas fault between San Francisco and Los Angeles. MATTHEW MAY

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Analogue era is over

Digital circuitry has finally become financially competitive with analogue waves. Barry Fox looks at the benefits

The technology of home electronics is moving from the analogue to the digital. But this is not because the public cares about whether signals are processed as analogue waves or digital pulses.

As the electronics company ITT learned the hard way five years ago, when it launched a television set which cost more than usual because it had digital circuitry, but which offered no obvious benefit, what the public cares about is cost and features.

However, the transition from analogue to digital is gathering momentum because digits can now offer more at a lower cost.

The vinyl LP is fast disappearing, a victim of the convenience of the digital compact disc. This is not just because of the audio quality available from digital discs.

Digital error-correction makes CDs far less susceptible to surface dirt, dust or scratches than a grooved analogue LP and the digital code is easily indexed to provide automated play of selected tracks in any order.

This year should at last see the launch of DAT, the digital audio tape cassette which was originally seen as a replacement for the Philips analogue compact cassette. Behind the scenes, Philips has been working on a digital version of the compact cassette.

Manufacturers have good reason to invest in the switch from analogue to digital. Putting a complex digital circuit on to a micro-chip is far easier than integrating the analogue equivalent.

Although the design of any integrated circuit can cost millions of pounds, chips can thereafter be mass produced for pence.

Mass production should result in lower prices and higher reliability. When a consumer product fails, it is seldom a digital fault, but is usually a

mechanical part which causes the problem.

The public has not yet acquired a taste of the real, but hidden, benefits of home digital recording. But it is these benefits which will make the technology a hot political potato.

To tape-record an analogue audio signal, either from an LP gramophone or the analogue outputs of a CD player, care must be taken to set the input gain control of the tape recorder so that the level meters do not move into the red, signifying overload of the tape and distortion of the sound.

Even if the level is set on a dummy run over the first few minutes of music, any surprise musical peaks later on will still spoil the recording.

Videotape recorders rely on automatic level controls and quality soon falls off if an attempt is made to copy a tape more than a few times, as is necessary for editing the fast-growing number of home-shot cam-corder video movies.

Compare this with copying a computer program or text file; only the copy command need be entered, there are no level controls to be set and no meters to read and watch for red overload.

Every copy is perfect and every copy of a copy, or clone, is as good as the last. Digital dubbing from CD to DAT will be just as easy.

But home video still remains an analogue island. Although the new generation of video discs, known as CD Video or Laserdisc, has digital stereo soundtracks, the pictures are recorded as an analogue signal.

All domestic video-recorders tape pictures as an analogue signal. The label digital seen on some domestic VCRs is misleading. It denotes only that the recorder incorporates a digital memory.

Technically, it is a tall order to record moving pictures in



Home digital video: only part of the picture is recorded

digital code. If the 25 individual pictures a second which go to make up a European 625 line PAL broadcast signal are directly converted into code, the number of bits of digital information generated per second is some 100 times the number needed for CD-quality stereo.

Both Sony and Matsushita have separately demonstrated prototype domestic videotape recorders where three hours of high-quality pictures can be stored on a small cassette. The circuitry has not yet been integrated, but the technology is ready to be exploited and, on purely technical grounds, there could be a digital video-recorder in the shops within a few years.

However, this will be prevented by commercial and political pressure. The film industry resists anything that makes it easier to clone programme material.

The idea of selecting a film from a library and transmitting it via a telephone line to a digital video-recorder is even further off. Even the latest large-capacity phone links to be introduced next year will provide moving-picture quality adequate only for videophone communications. Images are smeared and jerky. Full-quality video needs an optic fibre link into the home.

Caffeine in DNA prevents one of these enzymes,

photolysis, getting to damaged DNA and doing its job so the damaged DNA stays unpaired.

That is not the only problem. Other enzymes repair DNA by cutting out the damaged section and replacing it with a new bit. Caffeine makes a nuisance of itself by impersonating a damaged piece of DNA, diverting the enzymes from "real" lesions. But there is no need to cut the habit of a lifetime as yet. Dr Selby and Dr Sancar did their experiments on bacteria. To achieve the concentrations

us any information about cause and effect," Dr Fletcher says. "It is not even quite certain yet, whether telomere loss with age is as clear-cut as the researchers' results suggest."

There is, though, a way to get round telomere loss. In 1985, Dr Blackburn and Dr Greider found that *Tetrahymena* cells could build up their telomeres with a special enzyme they called telomerase.

Earlier this year, Dr Blackburn and her group showed that *Tetrahymena* cells with defective telomerase aged much more quickly than normal. Could telomerase explain why cancer cells can divide without limit, subverting the normal course of ageing? Dr Harley thinks that it is far too early to tell.

Cancer cells are odd in that they have very short telomeres. But their very shortness, may partly explain why cancer is often a disease of later life. Once telomeres get short, they start running into problems: chromosomes with short telomeres sometimes stick to one another at the ends, fouling up the process of cell division. This could lead to cell death, or the growths that lead to cancer.

Nature Times News Service 1990

The study of how cells age and die may show why cancer cells appear immortal

A tiny key to the secret of youth

Why do cells in laboratory cultures curl up and die after dividing a finite number of times? What happens if, any, is there to the ageing process and to death? Dr Calvin Harley, a biochemist at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, has been pondering these questions for 15 years, (Henry Gee writes).

The paper that set Dr Harley thinking was an obscure and highly speculative article in the *Journal of Theoretical Biology*, published in 1973, when he was still a graduate student.

The answer to the question of cell mortality, suggested by the author, Soviet researcher Dr A. M. Olovnikov, would lie in the chromosomes — the strands of the nucleic acid, DNA, that contain the genetic instructions, regulating all aspects of the cell's activities.

Chromosomes are copied every time a cell divides, and are linear, with distinct ends.

Just like pieces of string, chromosome ends tend to fray with repeated use. Dr Olovnikov noticed that older cells had shorter chromosomes than younger cells, as if the chromosomes gradually got worn away at the ends, and a small amount of DNA was

lost in every round of cell division. He coined the term "marginotomy" for this gradual loss.

To prevent the irredeemable loss of vital genetic information, the ends of chromosomes are made of content-free junk DNA. These are called telomeres, and buffer the chromosomes against gene loss: a little bit of telomere is shaved off after every cell division.

But once the telomeres on a chromosome ran out, vital genes would be exposed: the cell would lose genetic information and start to malfunction, age, sicken and die.

Dr Harley wondered what part telomeres played in cells that had become cancerous.

Cell lines established from tumours are effectively immortal: that is, these cells have some way of getting round the irrevocable loss of telomeres?

Dr Harley could not really address this question until the genetic structure of telomeres had been worked out. In the mid-Eighties, he met Dr Carol

Greider — now at the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in New York State — who had been working on this problem with her doctorate supervisor, Dr Elizabeth Blackburn, of the University of California, Berkeley.

Dr Blackburn's group had found the genetic sequence of human telomeres but not in humans. They had been studying a single-celled organism called *Tetrahymena thermophila*.

When the structure of human telomeres became known, Dr Harley and Dr Greider could finally start work.

In this week's *Nature* magazine they, along with Cold Spring Harbor colleague Dr Bruce Fletcher, present results that confirm Dr Olovnikov's suspicions — that cells tend to lose their telomeres as they age.

But a direct, causal link between ageing and telomere loss remains elusive as yet. "Nothing we have done gives

Nature Times News Service 1990

The danger lurking in your cup

CONSUMPTION of huge amounts of alcohol in a short time is known to be fatal. Now, the same is being said of coffee.

Research shows that huge quantities of caffeine can seriously damage the genetic material, DNA. Caffeine is a drug that resembles some of the constituents of DNA. So, a molecule of caffeine can slip, unnoticed, into DNA and cause mischief.

DNA can be damaged by ultraviolet light, which occurs in sunshine or sunbeds, leading to problems such as skin cancer. But cells also have a form of help known as photo-reactivation enzymes, which shuttle along the DNA, repairing the damage.

Caffeine in DNA prevents one of these enzymes,

photolysis, getting to damaged DNA and doing its job so the damaged DNA stays unpaired.

That is not the only problem. Other enzymes repair DNA by cutting out the damaged section and replacing it with a new bit. Caffeine

makes a nuisance of itself by impersonating a damaged piece of DNA, diverting the enzymes from "real" lesions.

But there is no need to cut the habit of a lifetime as yet. Dr Selby and Dr Sancar did their experiments on bacteria. To achieve the concentrations

Nature Times News Service 1990

Hidden risk: a molecule of caffeine can slip, unnoticed, into DNA and cause havoc

Continued from page 32

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNC

Master golfer starts his pursuit of an unique double

Ambitious Faldo promises to make light of problems

By MITCHELL PLATTS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

NICK Faldo moves into the Dunhill Masters, which starts at Woburn Golf and Country Club today, aware that he is on the threshold of a summer of historic achievement.

Faldo initially has in mind the completion of a unique double, since he is determined to defend the Dunhill Masters title just as he did the Masters tournament at Augusta in April.

Yet, he is clearly looking forward to the US Open at Medinah, on the outskirts of Chicago, where he will hope to move halfway towards becoming the first player to complete the grand slam of all four major championships in one year.

Such is the determination of Faldo that he is not going to allow the tinder-dry conditions to interrupt either his plans to win this tournament or to become the first British

Card of the course

hole	Yds	Par	hole	Yds	Par
1	385	4	10	502	4
2	134	3	11	163	3
3	325	4	12	419	4
4	610	5	13	435	4
5	207	3	14	432	4
6	454	4	15	445	4
7	477	3	16	425	4
8	404	4	17	514	4
Out	3,085	34	In	3,885	38
Total	6,970	72			

player to win the US Open since Tony Jacklin in 1970.

Ian Woosnam, Faldo's principal opponent this week in the absence of Severiano Ballesteros, Bernhard Langer and José-Maria Olazábal, confessed that he finds the surroundings less than to his liking. "If I had to play in conditions like this all the time, I would work in a factory," Woosnam said.

Alex Hay, the managing director of the Woburn Golf and Country Club, has personally written to each of the 120 competitors to apologise that "the course is not presented as

either you or I would wish".

Hay pointed out that this is because of the lack of rain, coupled with the fact that the course is 600 feet above sea level and rests upon hundreds of feet of pure sand and Fuller's Earth. The limited supply of water available had been used to protect tees, aprons and greens. "I hope you do not find too many unkempt bounces," Hay added.

Faldo recognises that he will need to stay in the groove in order to win this tournament and keep alive the possibility of moving on to the Open Championship at St Andrews in July with the "impossible dream" of the grand slam still intact.

"I honestly believe I have a good chance of doing it and I will stay positive about that," Faldo said. Hay's problems were increased by a vandal, who sprayed a message in weedkiller on the 18th fairway. He said: "It will cost another £1,500 for special night patrols."

There was much that Faldo liked about the way his game began to come together under the guidance of David Leadbetter, his coach, at Wentworth when he finished the runner-up to Mike Harwood.

Such is the determination of Faldo that he is not going to allow the tinder-dry conditions to interrupt either his plans to win this tournament or to become the first British

champion.

Three former Welsh amateur champions, David McLean, David Stevens and Iestyn Tucker, and a host of other low handicappers, are in the 34-strong line-up for the two-round event.

Robert Broad, a former international based at Minchinton, may come into the reckoning while Mel Hughes, a past professional from Aberystwyth, John Dinsdale, who has the advantage of playing over his home course, John Thomas, a Glamorgan county player from Aberdare, and Dilwyn John, a one-time Welsh amateur snooker champion, cannot be discounted.

This event follows the lines of the mid-amateur championships in England except that there is no upper age limit in the Welsh contest. Organisers are delighted with the interest, although they would have preferred more entries from North Wales.

"We are convinced that the championship will go from strength to strength. The start is highly encouraging," Danny Lee, the Welsh Golfing Union secretary, said.

• The funeral of Ron Wills, the Daily Mirror boxing and golf correspondent, who died aged 54, will be held at 11am on Monday at Mortlake Crematorium. Flowers to T. H. Sanders and Son, Kew Road, Richmond, or donations to Save The Children Fund.

POLO

Bulldogs' grit to fore

By JOHN WATSON

THE quarter-finals of the four-chukka Dulux Cup were concluded at Cowdray Park, Sussex, yesterday with a 6-5 win for Bulldogs against Waverley, 5-4, and a 5-3 win for Holders (res 2) against Lodge Service.

Waverley held the lead for most of the way but Bulldogs were always closing on them. At half-time, Waverley were up 4-4. They were not seen in the third chukka, but, in the last, Waverley failed to mark the Bulldogs' strong man, the six-handicapper Fernando Fanti, from Chile. Riding Robert Hanson's speedy dun gelding, Blue

Jean, and well backed up by his team-mates, Fanti snapped home two in quick succession. Just before the final bell, Zimmerman, of Waverley, scored. Holders, who began with half a goal handicaps advantage over their opponents, Lodge Service, never trailed.

HOLDERS 1, F Hanson (1); 2, M Milne (2); 3, F Fanti (1); 4, C Sennett (3). **WAVERLEY** 1, I. Black (1); 2, R. Gurdjieff (3); 3, S. M. Zimmerman (6). **Holders** 1, S. M. Zimmerman (6). **Lodge Service** 1, G Farley (0); 2, J. Evans (5); 3, K. Kidd (4). **Holders** 1, K. Kidd (1). **Lodge Service** 1, S. Lodge (2); 2, K. S. Dutton (2); 3, T. Stedje (6). **Black** 8. **Cup** 1.

• The class exists in growing numbers and has already been accepted by a number of race organisers worldwide. To include the class in the next Whitbread race would add an exciting dimension, avoid the need for yet another set of class rules, and give race organisers the opportunity to design for purpose — surely the ultimate objective for racing yachts.

ROBIN KNOX-JOHNSTON, 26 Sefton Street, SW13.

Fine achievement

From Mr Andrew De Prey

Sir, On successive days last week (late editions, May 23 and 24) your large photographic was of the winner of the Whitbread Round the World Race, sailing in past. The details, and of two yachtsmen at the moment of their victory.

These two photographs had one thing in common in that all the sportsmen involved were New Zealanders. For a country that has only 3.3 million people to choose from it is remarkable how they continually produce sportsmen and women of such world class — from sailors to rugby players and of course mountaineers.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW DE PREY,
34 The Chase, SW4.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 071-782 5046

SPORTS LETTERS

New class would enhance race

From Mr Robin Knox-Johnston Sir. When discussing the possibility of new classes for the Whitbread Round the World Race (May 25), Barry Pickthall referred to the lack of a structural requirement for boats in the BOC Challenge single-handed round-the-world race, which starts in September. The BOC race organisers recommend that all craft be built to the international Offshore Rule.

The class exists in growing numbers and has already been accepted by a number of race organisers worldwide. To include the class in the next Whitbread race would add an exciting dimension, avoid the need for yet another set of class rules, and give race organisers the opportunity to design for purpose — surely the ultimate objective for racing yachts.

ROBIN KNOX-JOHNSTON, 26 Sefton Street, SW13.

Respect due to Robson

From Mr Keith Murphy

Sir, After reading David Miller's article (May 25) I felt great disappointment that he could not seemly find anything to applaud about Bobby Robson's time as England football manager.

It should not be forgotten that going into the European championship two years ago there was great admiration at home and abroad for the English team and their pre-competition performances. The poor display in the tournament said as much about the players as they did about the manager.

It is not accident that many of those same players have been given another chance to redeem both themselves and, more importantly, their manager. Robson's loyalty to these players has yielded a quite remarkable spirit over the past two years.

I would like to dispute that England's tactics, selections and formations are a "muddle". As I see it, the England manager arrives at the World Cup finals with many options in both players and strategy. His handling of the enigma that is Paul Gascoigne in the run-up to this competition has been masterful and we can justifiably believe that we have in our midst a player of international flair.

As a lifelong Ipswich supporter I suppose I am just a little biased towards the man who gave us so much at Portman Road. It would be a fitting tribute to the way Robson has responded to the criticism and abuse he has faced if we could show him some respect in his last campaign.

Yours faithfully,
KEITH MURPHY,
116 Kyle Park Drive,
Uddington, Lancashire.

Hooliganism rife elsewhere

From Mr Gregor Greider

Sir, As a spectator of football matches around Europe and a student of football hooliganism, I believe that the problem is an abd — or even worse — in Germany, Italy and Yugoslavia as in England.

Here are some examples from a long list of incidents:

GERMANY 1988: The real trouble at the European championship in Düsseldorf was started by German hooligans and went on also in the Germany v Netherlands match.

1989: In a match at Saarbrücken a supporter died after being hit with a baseball bat by a Schalke 04 hooligan.

1990: In Rotterdam about 1,000 German hooligans were involved in battles during the day and night of the match against Netherlands. Several injuries were caused by rockets and missiles, seven Germans were attacked with knives.

1990: German hooligans started trouble at the France v Germany match which was interrupted. Lots of damage and injuries.

A police officer died at the Dortmund match in Bochum after fighting in the streets.

ITALY 1989: Inter Milan fans killed an Ascoli supporter with an iron bar. Bologna "Ultras" attacked a train containing Florence fans;

1990: Inter Milan fans killed an Ascoli supporter with an iron bar.

YUGOSLAVIA 1989: "Ultras" attacked a train containing Florence fans;

1990: Inter Milan fans killed an Ascoli supporter with an iron bar.

NETHERLANDS 1990: A police officer was killed in a match between Feyenoord and PSV Eindhoven.

ENGLAND 1990: A police officer was killed in a match between Liverpool and Nottingham Forest.

SCOTLAND 1990: A police officer was killed in a match between Celtic and Rangers.

WALES 1990: A police officer was killed in a match between Cardiff City and Middlesbrough.

FRANCE 1990: A police officer was killed in a match between Paris Saint-Germain and Olympique Lyonnais.

SPAIN 1990: A police officer was killed in a match between Valencia and Real Madrid.

PORTUGAL 1990: A police officer was killed in a match between Benfica and Sporting.

GERMANY 1990: A police officer was killed in a match between Bayern Munich and Borussia Mönchengladbach.

ENGLAND 1990: A police officer was killed in a match between Liverpool and Manchester United.

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Najmah to initiate Brighton double for in-form Carson

By MANDARIN (MICHAEL PHILLIPS)

WILLIE Carson, in excellent form following a treble at Sandown on Monday and a double there the following evening, looks poised to land another double at Brighton today on Najmah (2.30) and Gratico (3.0).

Twelve months ago Carson teamed up with John Dunlop, the successful local trainer, to win the 'Cardiff' Maiden Stakes with Double Blush. Now I expect the combination to land the same prize with Najmah, who is my nap.

Last time out this beautifully-bred filly by Nijinsky contested the Oaks Trial at Lingfield. Afterwards Dunlop admitted that he was disappointed to see her finish only fourth of five, 13 lengths behind the winner, Rafha.

However, she still ran well enough in that company to suggest that an ordinary race for maidens such as today's should come her way.

The Lingfield race was indeed a good contest. Rafha had by then already won the Princess Elizabeth Stakes at Epsom by 10 lengths and the Lingfield runner-up, Knight's Baroness, reproduced their form of last year's May Hill Stakes at Doncaster almost to a pound.

So with Idle Chat, the third at Lingfield, also a useful performer the run by Najmah was probably better than it looked at the time.

It was certainly better than

anything achieved so far by Emphatist, who has been a disappointment. The Dara Queen and Riva, the three who form the nucleus of her opposition now.

Although she has never won over a mile, the distance of the Coomes Fillies' Handicap, Gratico has one advantage over her three rivals in that is she has won at Brighton before. History shows that those who do so, tend to do so again.

Her breeding, and the way that she has won over seven furlongs at Wolverhampton and Salisbury this season, also suggest that Gratico should not be inconvenienced by the extra distance this afternoon.

With Jawab, Home Truth, and Ima all declared runners, there should be some keen betting before the Coomes Senior Citizens Graduation Stakes. Jawab was a five-length winner at Lingfield first time out while Home

Truth forced a dead-heat with the promising Seashell at York earlier this month.

When Ima finished third at Newmarket last autumn he was beaten, albeit easily, by Belmez and Satin Wood, who have both upheld the form since.

However, on the evidence of his Lingfield win, Jawab could just have the edge in this instance.

At Carlisle, Drum Sergeant will start at cramped odds to win the Knarsdale Maiden Stakes and thus continue the run of success recently enjoyed by his trainer, Willie Carson.

Petrol Blue, already a winner on the Cumbrian track this season, should find life in the Borrowdale Handicap easier compared with when he ran first Friday at Pontefract. On that occasion he finished fifth in the race won by Bottles, who was the medium of an inspired Newmarket-based gamble.

EPERVERIER Blue was heavily backed with Corals yesterday for Sunday's Prix du Jockey Club Lancia at Chantilly. Supported from 11-4, he now shares 7-4 favouritism with Alex Scott's Theatrical Charmer, still to be supplemented the field is likely to number around 16.

Pat Eddery, who rides Sanglame in the Prix du Jockey Club, will partner Scott's Nabeel Dancer in the group three Prix du Gros Chêne on the same programme. Zanoni, trained by Michael Jarvis, is another Englishman sharing an 8-1 quote with Petrol Blue.

Eighteen remained at yesterday's forfeit stage, and with

the King Edward VII Stakes at Royal Ascot.

It simply hasn't been possible to get Minkademus ready in time for Epsom," said the trainer. Following reports that Elmaamul had worked particularly well in blinkers at West Ilsley, the price of Sheikh Hamdan al-Maktoum's Pre-dominant Stakes runner-up has been cut sharply from 16-1 to 10-1.

After Elmaamul had beaten Raj Waki only narrowly on his seasonal resurgence at Kempton, Carson had expressed the opinion that the horse was running very lazily. And the blinkers on the gallops seem to have corrected this tendency.

Elmaamul was badly hampered when four lengths second to Razeen at Goodwood. "But

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Sasaki is latest Derby withdrawal

By MICHAEL SSELBY
RACING CORRESPONDENT

NEITHER Michael Stoute nor Swinburn, already successful in two Derbys with Shergar and Shahzani, will be involved at Epsom next Wednesday.

In yet another surprise announcement in this year of major disappointments, Stoute said that Sasaki had failed to please his connections in a morning workout at Sandown Park racecourse and that the colt would not now attempt to give Sheikh Mohammed his first Derby triumph.

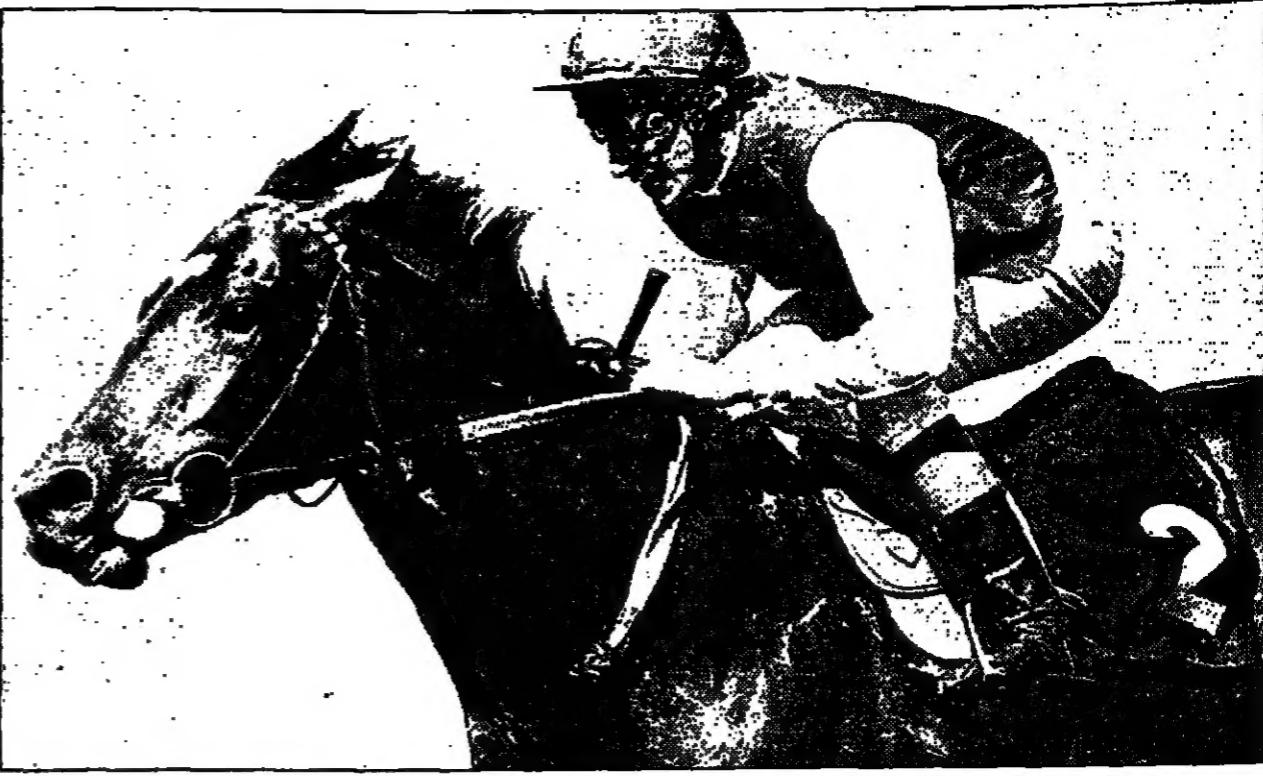
Sasaki, a one-race ante-post favourite for the great race before disappointing at Ascot, had come back into favour at Newmarket last autumn. However, Stoute said: "He worked well enough but didn't really fit. There would be no point in sending him to Epsom."

Anthony Stroud, the racing manager for Sheikh Mohammed, said: "Sasaki is a horse with a future, but it has been decided that he is not quite ready for the Derby. No decision has yet been made about his next outing."

Stoute has already had the frustrating experience of withdrawing Rock Hopper, one of the joint-favourites for the Derby and yesterday proved no exception. On the Linckleside Steve Cauthen rode the favourite, Razeen, in an 11-furlong spin with River God VII or Ryan. Both colts drew well clear of Tiflif.

River God is still in the Derby, but won't run," said Stroud. "He'll go to Ascot for either the King Edward VII or the Queen's Vase."

In Ladbrokes' latest betting, Razeen's price has been cut half a point from 3-1 to 5-2. Linamix



Michael Stoute will be without a Derby runner following the defection of Sasaki (seen here with Steve Cauthen)

is 5-1, followed by 6-1 Zosman, 9-1 Blue Stag, 9-1 Quest For Fame and 10-1 Elmasoul.

While it is hardly likely to be cause for general sympathy, the bookmakers, too, seem to have been suffering from the Derby confusion. Elmaamul had worked particularly well in blinkers at West Ilsley, the price of Sheikh Hamdan al-Maktoum's Pre-dominant Stakes runner-up has been cut sharply from 16-1 to 10-1.

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Elmaamul was badly hampered when four lengths second to Razeen at Goodwood. "But

for being interfered with, Elmaamul would certainly have given the Derby favourite something to think about," said Hern. "For that reason alone he's entitled to take his chance."

Newmarket Heath is traditionally a hive of activity on the Wednesday before the Derby and yesterday proved no exception. On the Linckleside Steve Cauthen rode the favourite, Razeen, in an 11-furlong spin with River God VII or Ryan. Both colts drew well clear of Tiflif.

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- RACING: 37
- CRICKET: 38
- FOOTBALL: 39

SPORT

Surrey nine o'clock shadow

By JOHN WOODCOCK

NEEDING a formidable 280 to beat Lancashire, Surrey were still very much in with a chance of getting them as the sun began to go down at Old Trafford yesterday. The start had been delayed for an hour by overnight and morning rain, and there were already echoes of the famous match here in 1971 when Lancashire beat Gloucestershire in the Gillette Cup just before 9pm.

The dismissal of Stewart, second out at 160 in the fourth over when he was playing with much abandon, came as a respite for Lancashire. Stewart and Clinton had made 123 together for Surrey's second wicket and conditions could hardly have been better for batting, morning cloud having given way to evening sunshine.

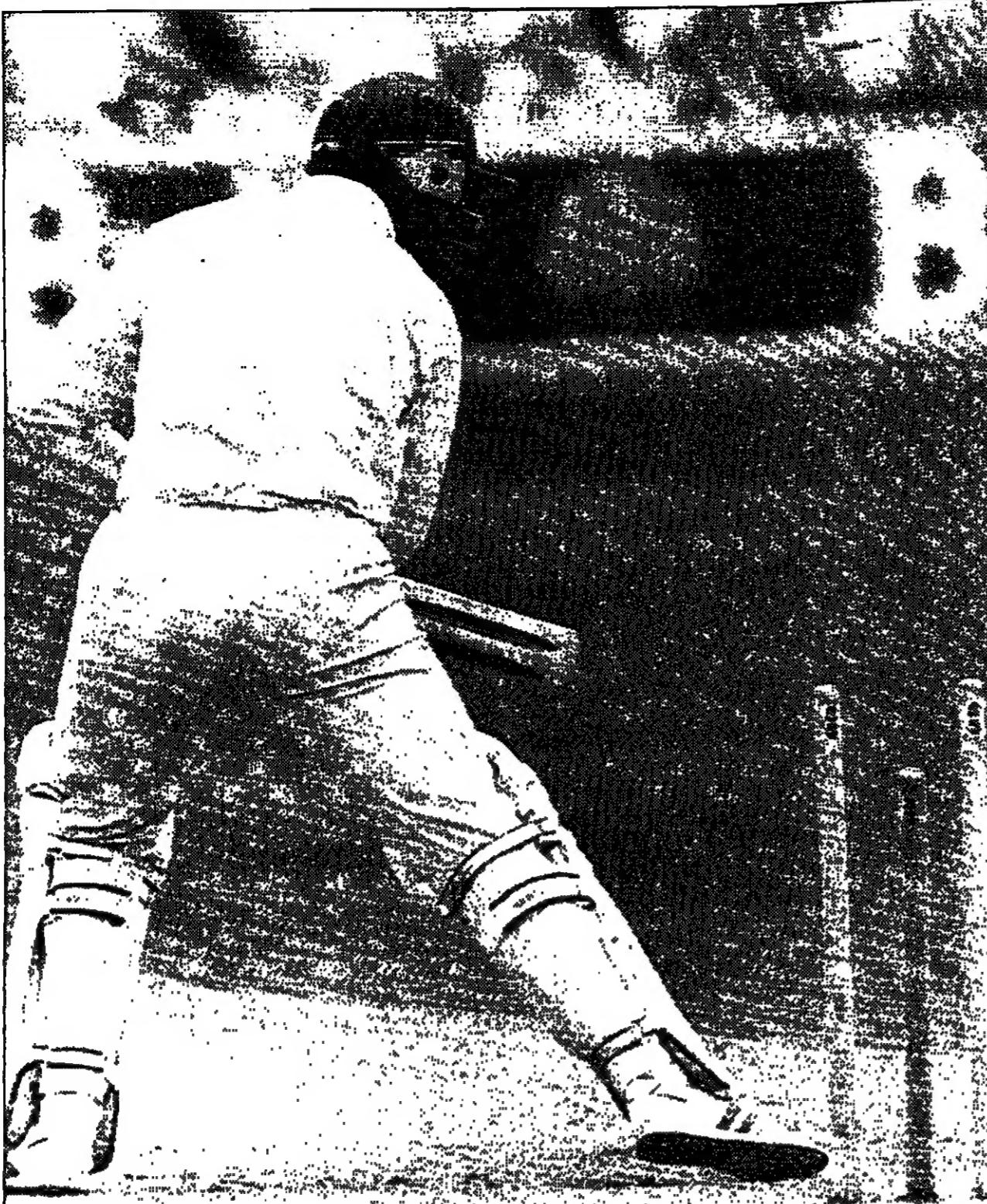
Once Fowler and Atherton had settled in, after Mendis had been out in the ninth over, there was a certain inevitability about Lancashire's innings. The appearance of Waqar Younis' opening Surrey's bowling caused less surprise, I suppose, than if Bicknell, his partner, had walked out to do the same for the United Bank in Multan, which is Waqar's home side.

But it was still unexpected. The most promising of Pakistan's present Test attack, Waqar had been cleared to play at breakfast time, as a stand-in for Gray, Surrey's injured West Indian. The second of Waqar's two wickets was his opposite number for the Pakistan National Shipping Organization, Wasim Akram.

Fowler and Atherton added 172 together in 35 overs and very well they played on a pitch which looked as they do, if you like, in Multan. No one picks up the leg-side half-volley, or something just short of it, better than Fowler. A lot of his runs came that way. To see Atherton established at No. 3 for Lancashire, followed by Fairbrother at four, is most heartening. At last, in Atherton, we have a young right-handed English batsman who stands powerfully, has regard for the textbook, a real talent and the right sort of temperament.

Yesterday Fowler's 96 came off 140 balls and Atherton's 74 off 105. They both bided their time and built their innings. Fairbrother, for his part, threw the bat as soon as he came in. He begins to look, at times, encouragingly like Allan Border, and it was good to hear that if he gets another chance for England he intends to play his natural game, rather than allowing himself to be persuaded that that would never do in a Test match.

His unbeaten 61, in 36 balls, took his aggregate for the season to exactly 1,000—and that excludes the 145 he scored for Lancashire against



Clean bowled: Lilley, of Essex, has his defiant stand brought to an end in the Benson and Hedges Cup quarter-final match against Nottinghamshire at Chelmsford yesterday. Notts won by six wickets. Report page 38

Hampshire in the Benson and Hedges Cup, but in a match which fell foul of the weather. Of those that are recognised, no fewer than 573 were against Surrey. He must have saved a great many, too, with his splendid fielding.

Having helped to contain Fairbrother's partners by catching three of them and running out another, Lynch was now sent in, in the absence of Darren Bicknell (broken knuckle) to open Surrey's innings with Clinton. He is capable of winning almost anything if he gets a start, and there were enough dazzling strokes for Lancashire to be relieved to see the back of his

him, caught at slip in Allott's seventh over. By tea (25 overs) Surrey needed 73 for one, their asking rate having already risen from five to seven runs an over.

With 20 overs to go and Stewart enjoying himself, Surrey needed 149. Having thought they had the game in hand, Lancashire were beginning to have their doubts.

Wides abounded, a sure sign of anxiety; words were exchanged when Stewart survived a concerted appeal for a catch at the wicket off Watkinson, another indication of the same emotion.

Surrey still had a great deal to do, but the conditions were

there for the trying.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-26, 2-196, 3-203, 4-225, 5-246, 6-249. BOWLING: Bicknell 11-2-61-1; Waqar 11-0-52-2; Batten 11-2-61-1; Murphy 11-0-52-2; Mendis 11-0-52-2. Umpires: A G T Whitham and J H Harris.

fall of wicket: 1-37. Umpires: A G T Whitham and J H Harris.

With Integrity is last of era

By BARRY PICKTHALL

WITH Integrity, the last of the Whitbread Round the World race yachts, arrived in Southampton with a bump yesterday to close the race and end an era of amateur circumnavigations.

The veteran maxi, in which Chay Blyth and his team of paratroopers won line honours in the first Whitbread race 17 years ago, and which had competed under various guises in each subsequent race, ran aground in the Solent shortly before the finish.

It was the last in a catalogue of catastrophes that beset Andrew Coghill and his crew since the outset of the race last September. These have included broken rigging, boom, and steering, and a radio that malfunctioned almost throughout.

Formerly named Great Britain II, it was known from the outset that the 77ft Alan Gurney design could not compete against modern purpose-built racers like Stenlager 2 and Rothmans, and because of this, the Royal Naval Sailing Association included a cruiser class in the event.

Sadly, only two yachts entered and With Integrity ended the race outclassed by her rival, Creighton's Naturally.

Plans for the next race

centre on three professional classes, for 60ft yachts, IOR maxis and a new breed of 80ft super-maxis, with no room for amateurs.

Instead, they will be catered for by events like the Chay Blyth-inspired British Steel Challenge, a new round the world race scheduled to start in 1992, which is providing 120 places in a fleet of 67ft One-design yachts at a fee of £15,000.

FINAL POSITION: Sixth leg (Port London to Southampton): 1, Stenlager 2 (P Bate, N2), 17 days 00hr 23min; 2, Fisher & Paykel (G

Deacon, N2), 17:00:23; 3, Marti (P Fahrni, Switzerland), 17:02:43; 4, Rothmans (P Smith, GB), 17:12:50; 5, The Card (R Johnson, Sveti), 17:15:10; 6, Belgian Friend (P De Bruyn, B), 17:17:10; 7, Fortuna (A Fortuna, Spain), 18:04:21; 8, UBS Financial (P Engels, B), 18:12:29; 9, Fazal (V Alayev, USSR), 18:04:21; 10, UBS Financial (P Engels, B), 18:17:22; 11, Gatorade (J Reave, IRL), 18:15:44; 12, Charles Jourdan (A Gabby, PR), 18:16:51; 13, Marti (P Fahrni, Switzerland), 18:20:45; 14, Satsuma British Defence (P Johnson, GB), 18:22:24; 15, Equity & Safety (D Johnson, NZ), 18:22:24; 16, Marti (P Fahrni, Switzerland), 18:22:24; 17, L'Espoir (P Tabary, FR), 19:06:55; 18, Rascamor Sport (P Tabary, FR), 19:06:55; 19, Marti (P Fahrni, Switzerland), 19:06:55; 20, Marti (P Fahrni, Switzerland), 19:06:55; 21, Marti (P Fahrni, Switzerland), 19:06:55; 22, Wind (Ricardo Vaz, Portugal), 19:12:22; 23, Overall 1, Steinlager 2 (P Bate, N2), 17:00:23; 2, Fisher & Paykel (G Deacon, N2), 17:00:23; 3, Marti (P Fahrni, Switzerland), 17:02:43; 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